

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XX, Number 27

12th Waning of Kason 1374 ME

Thursday, 17 May, 2012

True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

President U Thein Sein felicitates His Majesty King of Norway

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Harald V of Norway, on the occasion of the Constitution Day of Norway, which falls on 17 May 2012.

MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates Norwegian Prime Minister

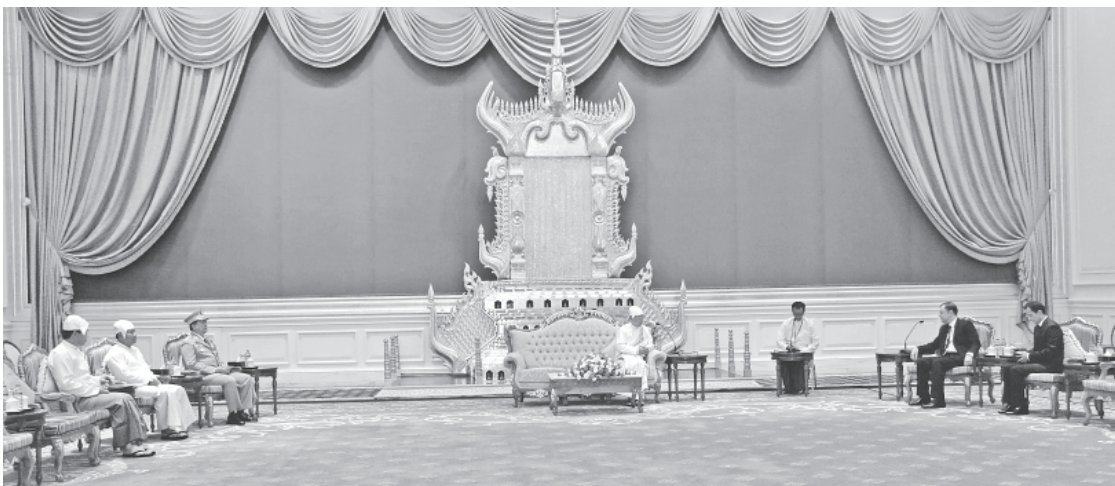
NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to H.E Mr Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway, on the occasion of the Constitution Day of Norway, which falls on 17 May 2012.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Turkish Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Mr Murat Yavuz Ates, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, here, at 10.30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Aye Thaw of the Protocol Department.

MNA



President U Thein Sein receives Ambassador Mr Murat Yavuz Ates of the Republic of Turkey.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Thai Ambassador



NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Mr Pisanu Suwanajata, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Aye Thaw of the Protocol Department.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Ambassador Mr Pisanu Suwanajata of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar pose for documentary photo.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 17 May, 2012

Use your energy to boost your health

Most of us don't think about the state of our health until we are sick, but being mindful of your lifestyle choices and paying attention to the way you feel can help you take steps to ensure that you are doing everything you can to optimize your health.

Getting fit does not have to be an unpleasant experience. With just a small investment of time and energy it is easy to improve the average

person's health.

The benefits of regular exercise are unrivalled. Physical activity can help you lost weight and prevent a host of illness, including heart disease, diabetes and osteoporosis. Being fit also can help you stay mentally sharp.

To use your energy, you are required to engage in weight training one or two times a week and endurance training two or three times. A training session only has to last between twenty and thirty minutes to show improvement in health.

The important thing is that you exercise regularly and not how long you exercise. If you are too busy, or do not want to workout, try breaking up the sessions into smaller units spread throughout the day. You can begin in the morning

by doing leg and back exercise in bed after you wake up. That is the best to launch the day. You can also use the time in your car spent waiting at a traffic light by relaxing muscles and engaging in neck exercises. You can use the time you would normally wait for an appointment by going for a walk.

Walking up or down a few flights of stairs each day is also highly recommended. Avoid elevator and escalator whenever possible. If you ride the bus, get off a stop before your office and walk the extra distance. Walking is great because anyone can do it and you don't need any special equipment other than a properly fitting pair of sneakers. And why not go walking as physical exercise to stay healthy?

Press Council to come into existence soon serving as genuine Fourth Estate



Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan meets officials of preparation committees for formation of Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association, Myanmar Journalists Association and Myanmar Publishers and Books Sellers Association.—MNA

YANGON, 16 May—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met the personnel of the preparation committee for formation of Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association, the preparation committee for formation of Myanmar Journalists Association, and the preparation committee for formation of Myanmar Publishers and Books Sellers Association on 13 May and the personnel of Myanmar Journalists Union and Myanmar Journalists Network at the meeting hall of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road here on 14 May.

Speaking on the occasions, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said he believed that efforts for the establishment of writers and journalists organizations lie in interests of the people engaged in literature and journalism fields and thirst for the emergence of competent and genuine Fourth Estate, for which the Information Ministry will cooperate fully with all the associations. The ministry itself is focusing on turning media into the competent and genuine Fourth Estate under changing era and system. Since the ratification of the 2008 Constitution, the ministry has taken a series of reforms in anticipation of the press operating under the constitution.

Meanwhile, it is drafting print media law, gradually but systematically releasing the grip over press in order that journalists can practice in harmony with that law after its ratification. In a week or later, all the novels will be allowed to go publishing under check-after-publish system. Meanwhile, it is making amendments and coordination so that the law may come into effect soonest. As the law will include prescriptions about the formation of press council, the ministry will establish original Press Council first as the preparation to grease the wheels when the law has come into existence. After the formation the press council, all genres of publications will be allowed to go press under check-after-publish system and the press council will be responsible for all of such processes.

Next, participating personnel of literature and journalism associations elaborated on objectives, future plans and progress of the associations concerned, followed by discussions on nomination of press council members, obligations and authority of the council, and enforcement of journalism ethics.

On behalf of the preparation committee for formation of Myanmar Writers Association U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) discussed that the basic principle for formation of MWA was approved at the emergency meeting of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association on 24 March, 2012 and the preparation

committee was taking actions under the approved basic principles. It was planned to reform MWA on 16 June.

U Khin Maung Tun (Khin Maung Tun-Lanmadaw) discussed that the preparation committee for formation of MWA during the MWJA emergency meeting had decided to reconstitute township writers and journalists association by 15 May and so far 192 township MWJAs had been established. CEC members of the MWA would be chosen through direct voting system at the conference due to be held on 16 June. He said he believed that Myanmar Writers Association would promote the interests of Myanmar literature and the nation under the constitution.

On behalf of the preparation committee for formation of Myanmar Journalists Association, committee secretary U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho) discussed that measures were being taken to found an independent Myanmar Journalists Association following the decisions of the MWJA emergency meeting. The preparation committee formed with 41 members was focusing to form the association as an appropriate and acceptable association, holding regular meetings. The set of rules for the MJA was being drafted as the constitution more modern and contributed by all the journalists. It is hoped to form an independent journalists association in the beginning of July. He said he believed that the MJA would emerge as a politically neutral association of the genuine Fourth Estate serving the interests of the State and its people as aspired.

U Khin Maung Lay (Phoe Thaukkyar) discussed that the MJA would devote more to the interests of the State and people than the press with uprightness. Personnel of the press council needed to strict to righteousness without bias. The definition of free press would vary from one journalist to another and but the law being drafted should reflect the international norm of free press.

On behalf of the Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association, Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo discussed that it had been 22 years that the association had stood firmly. The association founded in 1989 had members of over 4450 in number. Through the association is named printers and publishers, actually it was constituted with various classes and it could represent almost all the printers and publisher, covering paper and ink dealing, and paper machine, colour separation and binding business. In addition, it was the brother association of the UMFCCI.

On behalf of the Myanmar Publishers and Book Sellers Association, association chairman Dr Tha Tun Oo discussed

Union FM felicitates Norwegian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to H.E. Mr Jonas Gahr Store, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, on the occasion of the Constitution Day of Norway, which falls on 17 May 2012.—MNA

that the association had so far met for two times. Publishers and book sellers when asked whether they would like to join the association nodded on condition that free operation was allowed and future interests were guaranteed. The preparation committee would meet again in a few days. He said he believed that the formation of the association as an independent one would contribute to effectiveness of the association's works.

Next, committee secretary U Myint Tun discussed that concerning the conglomeration with Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association, they had to first listen to the voices of publishers and book sellers. It was planned to form Publishers and Book Sellers Association as separate one due to the wishes of the majority, which is believed to expand the publishing network. The works of printers and publishers were different from each other in nature despite the related procedures. So, it was decided to form as a separate association and the preparation committee was writing the rules for formation of the association.

Daw Aye Aye Win (AP News Agency) on behalf of the Myanmar Journalists Union discussed that the intention of the MJU and that of the Union Minister were the same. The MJU aimed to maintain the expression freedom of the journalists, and to protect the rights of journalists following the flourishing of justice and freedom. While it needed to protect the journalists, it was also required to inculcate them with journalism code of ethics nurturing to become a responsible association. The MJU was formed by journalists who shared the same belief that the sense of responsibility of each journalist all that is needed for dignity of the press and serving interests the nation and its people. It was aimed both for freedom of expression and protection of journalists. The sole purpose of the MJU was to conduct courses to journalists mainly to inculcate them with a sense of duty.

UZ Haw Htaik, on behalf of the Myanmar Journalist Network, discussed that the majority of the local journalists, the Fourth Estate, was the youth. So, there was weakness in professionalism, expertise, intelligence, and ethics and thus the network was initiated to fill such gaps. The network was aimed to serve the interests of the whole nation through media development. The first plenary meeting of the network was held at Yuzana Hotel on 2 May when basic principles for network formation were agreed. The decision-making of the network would be made by all the members apart from the committee. The network still needed to register to stand as a legal organization.

In his concluding remarks, the Union Minister suggested overall consideration of SWOT analysis of the past and objective conditions of the present as the most suitable solution, pledging for full cooperation by his ministry.—MNA

Newly recorded maximum temperature in Chauk

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—The maximum temperature (46.3)°C (115.3 °F) of Chauk on (15-5-2012) was newly recorded maximum temperature during (28) years for the month of May. The old recorded maximum temperature was (45.3) °C (113.5°F) on (14-5-2011), announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Fuel tankers and trucks move on their way to supply NATO forces after the reopening of a road at the southwest Pakistan-Afghanistan border crossing in Chaman on 14 January, 2009.—REUTERS



US, Pakistan on verge of reopening supply lines

WASHINGTON, 16 May—Pakistan and the United States appeared on the verge of clinching an agreement to reopen ground supply lines into Afghanistan, a US official said, as Islamabad confirmed

its president will attend a summit of NATO leaders this weekend in Chicago.

Reopening the supply route would be a major breakthrough in ties between Washington and Islamabad. Strained relations have fuelled speculation Pakistan might be excluded from NATO talks on Afghanistan's future.

Pakistan closed down the supply lines for the Afghan war effort following the NATO air strike in November that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. That strike fanned national anger over everything from covert CIA drone strikes to the US

incursion into Pakistani territory last year to kill al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Nadeem Hotiana, an embassy spokesman, confirmed that Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari will attend the 20 to 21 May summit.

"This meeting will underline the strong commitment of the international community to the people of Afghanistan and to its future. Pakistan has an important role to play in that future," NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said in a statement on Tuesday.

Reuters



A man, injured in a suspected grenade attack, receives treatment at the Coast General Hospital in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa on 15 May, 2012.—REUTERS

One killed in grenade blast in Kenyan coastal city

NAIROBI, 16 May—Gunmen detonated grenades outside a night club in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa on Tuesday, killing one person and wounding several others in the latest attack since Kenya sent troops into Somalia to crush Islamist militants.

Nairobi has said al-Shabaab militants, who merged with al-Qaeda earlier this year, are behind a surge in violence and kidnappings threatening tourism in east Africa's biggest economy.

Police said the target of the attack was Bella Vista sports bar in a street known for its nightlife in Mombasa, a popular holiday destination for Kenyans and foreigners.

A pool of blood marked the entrance to the club, and spent cartridges and grenade shells were strewn near its gate. Some cars nearby were riddled with shrapnel marks.

Police said the attackers tried to force their way into the club, but were barred at the gate by guards. They then shot at random and hurled the explosive devices.

Two of the guards were among those injured, and police said one of them, a woman, died of her wounds in hospital.

The Kenya Red Cross said on its Twitter feed that the woman had died of a gunshot wound to the chest. Police could not immediately confirm the cause of death.

"There is one dead and five others injured. We believe the dead person, a lady, was one of the guards at the gate," Ambrose Munyasia, the region's top criminal investigation officer who was at the scene told Reuters.

"From the evidence so far, we believe there were three grenade explosions."

Reuters

Florida mother kills her four children, then herself

MIAMI, 16 May—A mother shot and killed her four children before turning a gun on herself in a small town in Florida on Tuesday, authorities said.

The shooting happened at a house in Port St John, in Brevard County, about 15 miles from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre.

A spokesman for the Brevard County Sheriff's office identified the victims as four children aged 12, 13, 15 and 17. They were shot by their 33-year-old mother, Tonya Thomas, who then turned the gun on herself, Tod Goodyear said.

All were shot with what appeared to be a handgun, he said. Goodyear said a neighbour called police before dawn on Tuesday to report gunfire. When police arrived they found a fatally

injured 17-year-old girl in the front yard of the house, which is in a quiet neighbourhood of single family residences. More shots were heard inside the house as a SWAT team arrived and entered through a back entrance, he said.

A neighbour told police that three of the children had banged on his door shortly before 5 am, Goodyear said. "One of them may have been shot and was bleeding, so the neighbour got a towel for the child," he said.

Tonya Thomas then appeared at the neighbour's door and ordered the children to return home, he said, adding: "They did. They turned around and walked back to the house."

It was the worst multiple homicide Goodyear could recall in Brevard County

since a shooting in 1987 claimed six lives, including



those of two police officers.

Goodyear said police had been called to the house on several occasions in the past and the 15-year-old child, a boy, was arrested last month for domestic violence against his mother.

Thomas's husband, the father of all of the children, moved out of the house a few

Brevard County Crime Scene Investigators look for clues at the scene of a shooting in Port St John, Florida on 15 May, 2012. REUTERS

months ago, he added.

"It's hard to take in. This is a pretty peaceful place, normally," he said.

Tuesday's incident was the second deadly shooting in Port St John in the past week. Brevard County was the scene of six homicides in 2011, Goodyear said.

Reuters

A wounded woman leaves the zone where a bomb exploded in a crowded street in Bogota, capital of Colombia, on 15 May, 2012. Two people were killed in a bomb explosion in a crowded street in Bogota, capital of Colombia, on Tuesday, President Juan Manuel Santos said.—XINHUA



Explosion kills three, injures eight in Bogota

BOGOTA, 16 May—An explosion in Bogota on Tuesday killed three people and injured eight others, including former Interior Minister Fernando Londono, in the capital city's financial

district, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said.

Londono, the alleged target of the attack, sustained a chest injury, but his condition is stable, said Santos.

Speaking from the

presidential headquarters of Casa de Narino, Santos announced that "an attempt was made on the life of Fernando Londono," who currently heads a radio programme.—Xinhua

Hollande gets stormy welcome to power

PARIS, 16 May—François Hollande was greeted by a thunderstorm in Paris and storm clouds gathering over the euro zone as France's first Socialist president in 17 years was sworn in on Tuesday before flying to Berlin to plead his case for less austerity in Europe.

Hollande's first day in power was marred by a downpour as he rode by open-top car through Paris to mark his investiture, and lightning that hit his presidential jet, forcing him to make a U-turn en route to Germany and switch to a smaller Falcon jet.

After a handover with

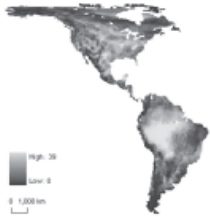
predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy, Hollande began his five-year term with a bang, naming a new German-savvy prime minister in addition to swearing-in ceremonies before rushing off to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Reuters

France's new President Francois Hollande (R) shakes hands with supporters on the Champs Elysees Avenue after the handover ceremony in Paris on 15 May, 2012.—REUTERS



Climate change will challenge mammals



The percentage of mammal species unable to keep pace with climate change in the Americas range from zero and low (blue) to a high of nearly 40 percent (light orange).
INTERNET

SEATTLE, 16 May—Nearly 10 percent of the Western Hemisphere's mammals won't be able to move swiftly enough to outpace climate change and reach safe havens, researchers say.

In certain regions that figure could go as high as 40 percent, scientists at the University of Washington reported on Monday.

Researchers have identified areas suitable for mammals likely to be displaced as climate change makes their current habitats inhospitable, then unlivable, but a new study considers whether mammals will actually be able to move to

those areas before they are overrun by climate change.

"We underestimate the vulnerability of mammals to climate change when we look at projections of areas with suitable climate but we don't also include the ability of mammals to move, or disperse, to the new areas," Carrie Schloss, a research analyst in environmental and forest sciences, said.

The analysis looked at 493 mammals in the Western Hemisphere ranging from a moose that weighs 1,800 pounds to a shrew that weighs less than a dime.

The researchers took into account human-made obstacles such as cities and croplands that animals would encounter in moving in response to climate change.

"I think it's important to point out that in the past when climates have changed — between glacial and interglacial periods when species ranges contracted and expanded — the landscape wasn't covered with agricultural fields, four-lane highways and parking lots, so species could move much more freely across the landscape," co-author Josh Lawler said.

Internet

'Dip Chip' can warn of toxins in water

TEL AVIV, 16 May—Israeli scientists say they've developed a biosensor they've dubbed a "Dip Chip" that can quickly test water quality in the field for the presence of toxins.

The Dip Chip contains microbes designed to exhibit a biological reaction to toxic chemicals, emulating the biological responses of humans or animals, researchers at Tel Aviv University reported Monday.

The new chips are based on genetically modified microbes whose biological reaction is converted into an electronic signal that can be read by the user, they said.

When perfected for

commercial applications, the chip might be easily plugged into a mobile device such as a smartphone to determine toxicity, engineering Professor Yosi Shacham-Diamand said.

"In my lab, we developed a method for communicating with the microbes, converting this biological response to electrical signals," he said.

Once the microbes on the device, which looks like a dip stick, come into contact with a questionable substance they produce a chemical signal that is converted to an electrical current by a device that can interpret the signals, producing a binary "toxic" or "not toxic" diagnosis, he said.

Internet



Dip Chip water tester.—INTERNET

UNSG's Message on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

17 May 2012

I welcome the focus on women and girls as the theme of this year's World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

Information and communications technologies are already benefiting women and girls in numerous ways. E-commerce is expanding opportunities for entrepreneurship. Mobile telephones are enabling midwives to make childbirth safer. Electronic social networks are allowing women around the world to mobilize as never before for democracy, dignity and human rights.

At the same time, we know that information and communications technology has the potential to cause harm. Cyberbullying, Internet-driven human trafficking and other abuses are often targeted at women and girls. We must do everything possible to stop these crimes and promote greater online security for all people.

More broadly, we should work to optimize the power of information and communications technology to support

sustainable development. By gathering, disseminating and analyzing information, we can accelerate action to protect natural resources, combat climate change and help vulnerable people, including women and girls.

This is especially important in the context of the "Rio+20" United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held next month in Brazil. In the final run-up to the Conference, and then especially afterwards as we implement the decisions taken there, information and communications technology can make possible new approaches and solutions for a sustainable future.

On this World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, I call again for wide-ranging efforts to close both the digital divide and the gender gap. All people must be able to make the best use of information and communications technology to help create the future we want.

UNIC/Yangon

Message of the Secretary-General of the ITU on the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

17 May 2012

"Women and Girls in ICT"

ICTs play a catalytic role in creating opportunities for people in every walk of life, especially for those among us who are vulnerable and disadvantaged, while providing the framework for long-term sustainable development.

This year, on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, we are determined to harness the full potential of ICTs for the benefit of women and girls by eliminating gender disparities and empowering them to meet their goals and aspirations. The theme of this year's WTISD, "Women and Girls in ICT", aims to ensure that this significant, female half of the world's population will march forward as equals.

Women are the bedrock of our societies. They are the pillars of strength in every family and community. Yet gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched. Women and girls are denied access to basic health care and education and to equal opportunities at work. They face segregation in economic, political and social decision-making and often suffer violence and discrimination.

This situation is unacceptable and we must address it with all the means available to us.

Gender equality is a basic human right enshrined in the UN Charter, and it is one of the main objectives of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). ICTs are tools that can help accelerate progress towards achieving this target, and it is for this reason that ITU Council proposed that we focus our efforts this year on women and girls, using the power of ICTs to provide new digital opportunities to end discrimination and empower women and girls to achieve their rightful place as equals in the world. This effort with ICTs must begin not only from the cradle, but from antenatal health care, reaching out to the remotest communities through telemedicine and other means — with every mother, every girl and every woman guaranteed her birthright.

I call upon ITU Member States, Sector Members and Associates as well as academia and citizens' groups to pull together every conceivable resource to ensure that women and girls in every community around the world have full access to ICTs in order to empower them with information and knowledge, to know their rights, and to seize every available digital opportunity.

I also call upon our other partners and stakeholders — political leaders, policy makers, regulators, operators, industry and civil society — to adopt policies and strategies that will promote ICT opportunities for women and girls.

National governments, private sector, donors, civil society and educationists need to acknowledge and support the central role professional women can play in further developing and servicing a dynamic and competitive ICT sector. The growing demand for a range of ICT skills around the globe present a unique window of opportunity to properly position girls and women in the industry and provide them with the tools necessary to succeed.

The ICT sector in particular can pave the way by providing avenues of advancement to professional women at the highest echelons of decision making and by encouraging young women to seek new careers within the sector.

I urge you to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day this year by paying particular attention to the special needs of women and girls, extending to them the benefits of ICTs so as to create a paradigm shift in opportunities offered now and in the future. An egalitarian and just society is the basis for a peaceful and prosperous world.

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré
ITU Secretary-General

Increase in hatchery salmon brings concern

PORTLAND, 16 May—Salmon raised in man-made hatcheries can harm wild salmon through competition for food and habitat, a finding with worldwide implications, researchers say. More than 20 studies by university scientists and government fishery researchers in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, Russia and Japan provide mounting evidence fast-growing hatchery fish compete with wild fish for food and habitat in the ocean as well as in the rivers where they return to spawn, the Oregon-based Wild Salmon Centre reported on Monday.

"The genetic effects of mixing hatchery fish with wild populations have been well-documented," researcher David Noakes of Oregon State University said. "But until now the ecological effects were largely hypothetical. Now we know the problems are real and warrant more attention from fisheries managers." The findings raise questions about whether the

ocean can supply enough food to support future increases in hatchery fish while still sustaining the productivity of wild salmon, experts said.

"This isn't just an isolated issue," Pete Rand, a biologist at the Wild Salmon Centre, said. "What we're seeing here in example after example is growing scientific evidence that hatchery fish can actually edge out wild populations."

Losing wild fish would mean losing the genetic diversity that has allowed salmon to survive for centuries, researchers said, while hatchery fish lack the diversity that provides insurance against fisheries collapses.

"There is no substitute for wild salmon. They must be our first priority," Guido Rahr, president of the Wild Salmon Centre, said. "Wild salmon are an important part of local culture and a cornerstone of economic health for fishing communities."—Internet

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Obama administration plans to fight Alzheimer's



US President Barack Obama and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius have a new plan to fight Alzheimer's disease.—INTERNET

BETHESDA, 16 May—Alzheimer's Research Summit 2012: Path to Treatment and Prevention. The plan, required by the National Alzheimer's Project Act and signed into law in 2011, was developed with input from experts in aging and Alzheimer's disease issues and calls for a comprehensive, collaborative approach across federal, state, private and non-profit

organizations. More than 3,600 people or organizations submitted comments on the draft plan.

The president's proposed fiscal year 2013 budget provides a \$100 million increase for efforts to combat Alzheimer's disease — \$80 million for research, \$4.2 million to improve public awareness, \$4 million to support provider education programmes, \$10.5 million to invest in caregiver support and \$1.3 million to improve data collection.

"These actions are the cornerstones of an historic effort to fight Alzheimer's disease," Sebelius said in a statement. "This is a national plan — not a federal one, because reducing the burden of Alzheimer's will require the active engagement of both the public and private sectors."—Internet

Sugar can make you dumb, US scientists warn

LOS ANGELES, 16 May—Eating too much sugar can eat away at your brainpower, according to US scientists who published a study on Tuesday showing how a steady diet of high-fructose corn syrup sapped lab rats' memories.

Researchers at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) fed two groups of rats a solution containing high-fructose corn syrup — a common ingredient in processed foods — as drinking water for six weeks.

One group of rats was supplemented with brain-boosting omega-3 fatty acids in the form of flaxseed oil and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), while the other group was not.

Before the sugar drinks began, the rats were enrolled in a five-day training session in a complicated maze. After six weeks on the sweet solution, the rats were then placed back in the maze to see how they fared.

"The DHA-deprived animals were slower, and their brains showed a decline in synaptic activity," said Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, a professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. "Their brain cells had trouble signaling each other, disrupting the rats' ability to think clearly and recall the route they'd learned six weeks earlier."

A closer look at the rat brains revealed that those who were not fed DHA supplements had also developed signs of resistance to insulin, a hormone that controls blood sugar and regulates brain function. "Because insulin can penetrate the blood-brain barrier, the hormone may signal neurons to trigger reactions that disrupt learning and cause memory loss," Gomez-Pinilla said. In other words, eating too much fructose could interfere with insulin's ability to regulate how cells use and store sugar, which is necessary for processing thoughts and emotions.

"Insulin is important in the body for controlling blood sugar, but it may play a different role in the brain, where insulin appears to disturb memory and learning," Gomez-Pinilla said. "Our study shows that a high-fructose diet harms the brain as well as the body. This is something new."

High-fructose corn syrup is commonly found in soda, condiments, applesauce, baby food and other processed snacks. The average American consumes more than 40 pounds (18 kilograms) of high-fructose corn syrup per year, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

While the study did not say what the equivalent might be for a human to consume as much high-fructose corn syrup as the rats did, researchers said it provides some evidence that metabolic syndrome can affect the mind as well as the body.

"Our findings illustrate that what you eat affects how you think," said Gomez-Pinilla.

"Eating a high-fructose diet over the long term alters your brain's ability to learn and remember information. But



Eating too much sugar can eat away at your brainpower, according to US scientists.—INTERNET

adding omega-3 fatty acids to your meals can help minimize the damage." The study appeared in the *Journal of Physiology*.—Internet

Shares in TV maker Loewe jump on Apple bid talk

FRANKFURT, 16 May—Shares in German luxury TV maker Loewe jumped to a 10-month high on Monday on market talk of a potential offer from Apple.

Web blog AppleInsider cited a person familiar with the matter as saying Apple was willing to pay 87.3 million euros (\$113 million), or a 48 percent premium on Loewe's closing price on Friday of 4.5390 euros per share.

A spokesman for Loewe said that management at the moment has no indication or information that Apple wants to participate in Loewe. Apple declined to comment.

Loewe shares were up 30 percent by 4:45 am EDT at

5.92 euros. Trading volumes were more than three times its 90-day average. A German trader said such a deal could make sense. "Look at Loewe's design. That is a big 'yes', I would say."

"The only problem is Loewe makes its TVs in Germany," he added. Loewe, founded in 1923 in Berlin, offers high-end home entertainment sets and has a market capitalization of 59.1 million euros, according to Thomson Reuters data.

The company already offers apps for the iPad to remotely operate their home

entertainment sets. Citing a difficult market environment Loewe earlier this month reported first-quarter operating losses of 900,000 euros, compared to a 2.9 million euro loss in the year-ago period.

First-quarter sales jumped 8 percent to 66.6 million euros. Japan's Sharp holds 28.8 percent of Loewe's shares, according to Thomson Reuters data. Loewe's management owns 14 percent of the company and French maker of digital storage devices LaCie has a 11.2 percent stake. (\$1 = 0.7726 euros)—Reuters

People walk by the Apple Store in the Eaton Centre shopping mall in Toronto, on 16 March, 2012.—INTERNET

Far behind rivals, Ford tries to play catch-up in China

CHONGQING, 16 May—Frank Chuang proudly surveys his immaculate new car plant as partly assembled versions of the Ford (F.N) Focus travel down the production line.

Glancing at the small cars in the massive manufacturing complex in the city of Chongqing in southwestern China, the 32-year Ford veteran is satisfied with the way production has ramped up since the plant opened in February.

"This is just the starting point," Chuang, the 58-year-old head of manufacturing at Ford's China joint venture, said in an interview last month. "At this moment, I'm very excited."

The plant will need to be a success if Ford is to get a better foothold in the world's

biggest car market, where it badly lags rivals such as General Motors Co (GM.N) and Volkswagen AG (VOWG_p.DE), which together produced the six top-selling cars in the country in 2011. Ford — which was late getting into China — had just 2.8 percent of the 18.5

"Ford had huge potential and I've always been very disappointed at how slow they've been," said Shaun Rein, author of "The End of Cheap China" and a corporate consultant in China. "They should have come in strong five to seven years ago."

Ford does not officially



Employees inspect an assembly line of a Ford manufacturing plant in Chongqing municipality, on 20 April, 2012.—INTERNET

million vehicle market last year, against GM's 14 percent and VW's 12 percent.

In 1997, Ford lost out to GM in the bidding to form a joint venture with Shanghai-based SAIC Motor Corp (600104.SS), which is China's largest automaker. It was another four years before the Chinese government allowed Ford to establish its own partnership and it made slow progress after that, including a misstep when its joint venture's first vehicle in 2003 was the small Fiesta car, when buyers were craving larger sedans.

acknowledge it was late to the party. "I wouldn't say we were late," Ford Asia head Joe Hinrichs told reporters at the Beijing auto show last month, adding: "We just didn't aggressively add to our product portfolio as much as many others did."

But it is now trying to go on the offense. It plans to double production capacity in China to 1.2 million vehicles by 2015, when it will add plants in Chongqing and Hangzhou along the east coast. Ford currently has two plants in Chongqing and a third in Nanjing.—Internet

GM's Chevrolet to introduce small crossover SUV

DETROIT, 16 May—General Motors Co's main brand Chevrolet will introduce a new small crossover SUV at the Paris auto show in September, the company said on Monday.

The Chevrolet Trax will be sold in 140 countries and will be introduced first in Mexico in the fourth quarter of this year. But it will not be sold in the United States. The Trax is slightly smaller than the Chevrolet Equinox crossover SUV, which is sold only in the US and Canadian markets.

The Trax will be built on the same underpinning platform as the Aveo and Sonic subcompact sedan. That subcompact sedan is sold as Sonic in the US and Canadian markets and as the Aveo in the rest of the world. Details including price, weight, length and fuel economy of the Trax were not released.

US sales of the Equinox crossover SUV rose 16 percent to about 70,000 in the first four months of this year.

Among crossover SUVs, the Equinox is No 3 in the US market, behind the Honda Motor Co CR-V at about 98,000 sales through April and the Ford Motor Co Escape at nearly 75,000 in sales.—Reuters



People walk by the Apple Store in the Eaton Centre shopping mall in Toronto, on 16 March, 2012.—INTERNET



China's aircraft carrier has returned to Dalian Harbor after 9 days of sea trial. It arrived on Tuesday.—XINHUA

Fischer wins Nebraska Senate GOP primary

LINCOLN, 16 May—State Sen Deb Fischer was headed for a victory over state Attorney General Jon Bruning on Tuesday in the Nebraska US Senate primary, returns indicated.

With 97 percent of the state's precincts reporting, the Nebraska Secretary of State's office said Fischer—who had been endorsed by 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin—had 41.08 percent of Republican votes cast, to 35.9 percent for Bruning.

The winner will face off against former US Sen Bob Kerrey in the general election in November.

Kerrey was headed for an easy victory in the Democratic primary Tuesday, with 79 percent of the votes cast. The winner will succeed Sen Ben Nelson, a Democrat who is retiring after his current term.

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney was an easy winner in the Nebraska primary, while President Barack Obama got 99 percent of the votes cast in the state's Democratic primary.

Thirty-five delegates to the Republican nomination convention in August in Tampa, Fla. were at stake in Nebraska.—Internet

Great white shark attacks kayak

SAN LUIS OBISPO, 16 May—A California man said he may have survived an encounter with a great white shark because the fish attacked his kayak instead of him.

Joey Nocchi, 30, of Paso Robles was fishing with two friends on Saturday afternoon off Moonstone Beach when he felt something bumping against the kayak, *The (San Luis Obispo) Tribune*

reported.

"I got hit from underneath and started coming up out of the water. My buddies said I came out of the water 4 to 5 feet—it flipped me over the side," Nocchi said. "The shark rolled the whole kayak over, rolled me out of it, and he went over the top of it. He swam across me—his tail touched me." Nocchi said his friends told him later the shark looked

like it was out to kill. He was so scared he immediately climbed on the back of the turned-over kayak, only to be warned by Matt Kerschke of Los Osos that he was not safe.

"The shark knows it made a mistake," he said his friend told him. "You'll have to get off, turn the kayak over, and get back in. I'm going to go get the paddle, and I want you in the kayak when I get back."

Occhi said he took that advice. When the three examined the kayak later they found a bite about 20 inches by 22 inches. They said the shark appeared to be 12 to 14 feet long.

He said he plans to stay out of kayaks for a while, fishing from the shore instead. Internet



Great white shark took a bite out of a kayak but the kayaker managed to escape.—INTERNET

Army evaluating General Dynamics systems

WHITE SANDS, 16 May—The US Army is conducting operational evaluations of high-speed communications equipment developed by General Dynamics C4 Systems.

The evaluations of the JTRS HMS Manpack and Rifleman Radios and the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical network are taking place through the end of May at the Network Integration Exercise 12.2 at White Sands Missile Range, NM.

"The HMS (handheld, manpack, small form fit) Manpack and Rifleman Radios are the only tactical radios that

have been 'systems under test' at the NIE 12.2 events," said General Dynamics C4 President Chris Marzilli.

"This means that detailed performance data, such as message completion rate, has been gathered and analyzed by independent observers while soldiers stress the system.

"This rigorous testing often reveals operational issues that are not evident in field or laboratory evaluations, which can then be addressed before products are deployed to the field."

The AN/PRC-155 JTRS HMS Manpack radio provides line-of-sight and beyond-line-

of-sight, high-bandwidth waveforms for on-the-move voice, sensor, data and position-location capabilities. It is nearly 5 pounds-per-channel lighter and with twice the communications and networking capabilities of some single-channel manpack radios, the company said. It is also interoperable with radios that US forces are currently using. The military's HMS programme is to develop and produce affordable networking tactical radios systems that meet the requirements of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Special Operations Forces. Internet

EU strafes Somali pirate village

MOGADISHU, 16 May—An attack by a European Union helicopter destroyed several pirate skiffs at a base in Somalia without injuring anyone, officials said on Tuesday.

Lt Cmdr Jacqueline Sherriff, a spokeswoman for the EU anti-piracy force, said planes had been conducting surveillance for some time around the village of Xarardheere, *The New York Times* reported. She said the helicopter attack, which used

small arms fire to go after fiberglass skiffs used in raids on shipping, lasted for a couple of minutes.

"This is a fantastic opportunity," she said. "What we want to do is make life more difficult for these guys."

The attack was the first under a new EU policy allowing attacks on land bases but only from the air. Until March, European naval forces had been allowed to attack pirates only at sea.

Somali-based pirates have seized hundreds of ships in the past few years, sometimes capturing vessels 2,000 miles away from their bases. They generally hold ships and crews for ransom.

Steps toward political stability in Somalia and efforts by the EU, United States and other countries to prevent seizures or recapture ships, have slowed the pirates down recently. But the pirates are thought to be holding 17 ships and 300 hostages.—Internet



US President Barack Obama greets Major League Soccer (MLS) champions, including Landon Donovan (L) and David Beckham (2nd L), during an event in their honor in the East Room of the White House in Washington on 15 May, 2012.—INTERNET

Britain to spend less on military hardware

LONDON, 16 May—Cuts in British military spending needed to balance the budget mean the country may have to curtail some ambitions, the head of the armed forces said on Monday.

Gen Sir David Richards, the chief of the defence staff, stood with Defence Secretary Philip Hammond as he announced the cuts, *The Independent* reported. Hammond said giving up on some planned spending, including unmanned drones, a third new aircraft carrier and six of 12 new destroyers, would allow the department to fill a \$60 billion shortfall in its budget in a decade.

The Ministry of Defence also plans to cut the number of soldiers from 102,000 to 82,000 and to reduce the size of the Royal Air Force from 44,000 to 39,000.

Richards said the cutbacks will have an effect. "It could be that some of the methods that we'd rather hoped or aspired to do in the future are no longer obtainable," Richards said.

Hammond said there had been a "woeful" lack of control in spending in the past and blamed the previous Labour government for digging a "black hole" under the military, the *Mirror* reported. Richards was more diplomatic, suggesting that politicians, officials and the military had "worked in a spirit of optimism rather than realism."

"We were all guilty to a degree," he added.—Internet

Police in N Ireland kept human tissue

BELFAST, 16 May—Police in Northern Ireland kept body parts and tissue samples from crime victims without telling the families involved, officials said on Tuesday.

The practice was followed in at least 67 cases between 1960 and 2005, the *Belfast Telegraph* reported. About 40 of the cases involved people killed by sectarian violence during the Troubles.

A national audit ordered by the Human Tissue Authority is under way in Britain. Hampshire Police and City of London Police were reported last week to have undertaken a similar audit.

Some of the material involved reportedly includes bones and skulls.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland, successor to the Royal Ulster Constabulary, said officers were getting in touch with the families.

"Specially trained Family Liaison Officers are now visiting those families affected to inform them and to discuss with them what their options now are," a PSNI statement said. "We know that this will be an incredibly difficult time for those families involved and we will provide all the possible support we can to them."—Internet



Photo taken on 22 April shows the view of Red Fort, a magnificent 17th-century red stone structure in Delhi where mutinous soldiers proclaimed the frail Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar as ruler of India in May 1857. INTERNET

PAGODAS, MYTH AND MYSTIQUE

BY BA THAN

On a first tour of cultural rich Myanmar by air, entering airspace to Yangon, the esteemed visitor will be enthralled by the magnificent sight of the Shwedagon Pagoda. Situated on a rising hillock 168 feet above sea level it is visible from afar, whether travelling by road, from sea or river or by air. The most revered and sacred Pagoda, now 326 feet high, scintillates majestically in the morning sun with multi-coloured brilliance of precious gems adorning the gold *hti* or umbrella on the pinnacle of the tapering spire. Bells of all varieties big and small made of pure gold, silver, iron, bronze or alloy hung in the tiers tinkled in musical cadence to the swing of atmospheric winds. In the evenings it adorns the fading cloak of orange as the sun sets in the western horizon. At nights the large search lights beam on the symmetrical spire, vying with the silvery moonlight on waxing moon nights. This is the Shwedagon, revered by the Buddhists the world over, and by millions of sightseers at the oldest heritage site of history of the Orient, built and enshrined 2600 years ago during the lifetime of Lord Buddha.

Pagodas are indeed unique landmarks of Myanmar. In no other country can you find such manifestation of devotion demonstrated by Myanmar Buddhists to Buddhism. Verily no hill is so high, no valley so deep, no forest so dense, no plain so barren as to prevent a pious Buddhist to build a pagoda of glittering gold, glass mosaic or snow-white coat, no matter how large or small, for no work of merit is believed to be so richly rewarded as building and donating a pagoda for the propagation of Buddhist faith. A writer noted that a group of trekkers scaled Mt Victoria, reputed to be the third highest peak in Myanmar (10000 ft), and was astounded to find a pagoda already there, the pinnacle they least expected, to witness such a feat of devotion considering the immense height and intensity of work to accomplish such a wonder.

History has recorded that Myanmar enjoyed prosperity as early as the Bagan Dynasty, principally during the reigns of the first Myanmar Emperor King Anawrahta (AD.1044-1077) and King Kyansittha (AD.1084-1112), popularly known as the Bagan Golden Age. It also witnessed another gold, i.e. the golden age of pagoda building. In that age of rote, Myanmar and Pali literature was preserved to memory by word of mouth, rhyme or verse as the easiest way to remember things by. Thus the number of Bagan pagodas in the 42 square kilometers of land was recorded in rhyming couplets, where each word represented a digit and the first four words were meant to be reckoned as 4446. The inventory of Bagan pagodas researched and recorded by the Myanmar Archeology Department posted the number as 2217.

That was just but one area of the country. Another city which reached the golden era through maritime trade around 16th century was the city of Mrauk-U in the Rakhine State. Imposing pagodas such as Shit-Thaung Pagoda, the pagoda of 80000 Buddha images, Koe-Thaung Pagoda the pagoda of 90000 images, the Mahamuni of Kyauk Taw are also sacred repositories of Buddhist faith. I believe no pagoda can surpass Moe-Hnyin Pagoda of Monywa where 512028 Buddha images repose. Other no less revered pagodas are the Golden Rock (Kyaik Hti Yoe) of Kyaikhto, the gold laden Maha Muni image of Mandalay, the Five Golden Images of Inle Phaung Daw Oo, and the sacred Sagaing Hills, refuge of the holy monks and nuns.

Lord Buddha's last instructions to his disciple Ashin Ananda included permission to build and revere shrines, pagodas as places of worship. Thus many pagodas and images were built through the centuries as the most sublime forms of meritorious deeds. In the course of years, many legends grew, attributable to certain pagodas, heightening devotion and obeisance or increasing the aura and omnipotence, in the belief that prayers and wishes will be answered. Naturally these myths and mystique passed through the generations by word of mouth, difficult to authenticate, or too diffident to challenge for fear of incurring the wrath of the guarding spirits. Some of the well worn legends which may excite the inquiring minds are presented herein.

Shwesigone Pagoda of Bagan is one of the most visited sights. There is one legend associated with Shwesigone Pagoda. One day the King of Bagan in full regalia came to pay homage to the great pagoda. Not wanting

to lift his royal head aloft to observe the pinnacle where the 'hti' was hoisted, he commanded his engineers to bring the pagoda into his royal vision while he bowed and prayed. The engineers made a quick survey, and bored a hole at the designated point. Finishing thus they poured water into the hole to level with the terraced platform. The engineers supplicated the mighty king to glance at the pool of water where the whole pinnacle would be in full view without batting even one royal eyelid. The mighty King paid obeisance to the sacred pagoda thanks to the ingenuity of the engineers. The visitor will have the same satisfaction too if he follows the same steps of the royal king one thousand years ago. You may well try it with the help of the young and eager Samaritans.

There is another legend involving four pagodas, viz: Shwesigone, Lawkanandar, Tant-kyi-taung and Tuyin-taung, within which four replicas of sacred tooth relics given as gift from Ceylon were enshrined by the great king Anawrahta. It is said that praying at all the four pagodas before noon will have your wish granted. The method of supplication is as follows. You must offer the same flower or fruit at all the pagodas. You must supplicate for one identical wish and the round trip must be completed before noon. In the earlier days when communication was difficult, it was a Herculean task. Modern day transportation and improved road network may shorten the time span, but it still remains an arduous, exciting as well as a rewarding visit.

Mahamuni, the golden image of Lord Buddha situated in Mandalay also has a store of legends attributed to his omnipotence. All Buddhists believe that Lord Buddha breathed life to the sacred image to propagate the Buddhist faith for 5000 years of Sasana duration. This holy image was originally cast in Rakhine and was brought to Mandalay by King Bodaw Phayar in 1784 AD. The legend that the holy image breathes life is demonstrated by the holy ceremony of washing the face every dawn, the ritual personally performed by the holy monk of Order of the Sanghas named 'Yedaw Sayadaw'. Many devout Buddhists from Mandalay and beyond through the narrow passage to catch a glimpse of the ceremony and also to offer towels, perfumes and alms to the Great Image. These are redistributed to the pilgrims who keep them as they believe it would bring good fortune.

Carried along with the sacred image were bronze statues. A light foray into the origins of these statues brought forth an interesting glimpse of history highlighting their sojourn. They hailed from Cambodia, standing guard at the famed Ankor Wat. They were moved to Thailand, then to Bago, then to Rakhine and then to Mandalay where they had taken permanent residence since, in the precincts of the Mahamuni Pagoda. There are six of them, viz: Two dvadapalas (temple guardian warriors), three lions and a three-headed elephant. Never would they have imagined themselves to be rubbed, and poked by peoples, who sincerely believed that they had healing powers. The present day visitors will surely notice with amusement why certain parts of the bronze anatomy are so smooth and shiny, which indicate where peoples through the centuries most tend to suffer.

Legend also abounds around Kyaikhti-yoe or the Golden Rock Pagoda, where the sacred hair of Lord Gautama Buddha was enshrined. Hiking towards the top of the Golden Rock hill through many climbs and forest paths offer exhilarating joy, however so exhausting that if the pilgrim can attempt three times in succession in one year to reach the sacred Rock, he will be blessed with riches and fame. Nowadays with the paving of concrete roads right to the top of the hill, pilgrimages especially for the elderly has become much easier. There is also another miracle in the way the Golden Rock is perched on the edge of a promontory of the hill. In the olden days it is believed that there is enough space for a hen to crouch in the vacuum between the Rock and the perch. Even now a thin bamboo reed can pass through it defying reason.

There is a legend surrounding a famous pagoda in the middle of a great lake called Inddawgyi, in the Kachin State. The pagoda is named Inddawgyi Pagoda. Being in the hilly region the weather is crisp and cool. At all times the pagoda can be reached only by a boat except in the month of the pagoda festival held in 'Taboung' the twelfth month of Myanmar lunar calendar (March). As if by miracle a footpath

appears spanning the bank and the foot of the pagoda, as if created by celestial beings to facilitate the pilgrims visiting the pagoda on foot. Devout people of the region named the path as the path paved by the nat spirits. As miraculously as it appears, the path submerges under the water after the festival ends, 'au revoir' till next year.

One famous pagoda in the Sagaing region stands out as being worthy of mention. It is named 'Soon Oo Ponnya Shin' of Sagaing Hill, a gateway to the peaceful Sagaing Hill Ranges 'Sagaing Taungyoe', a living centre of Buddhist faith where, in the 570 monastery complexes more than 5000 venerable monks and nuns live in celibacy, learning the Buddhist scriptures and practicing meditation. Legend says that no human being can offer the earliest alms to the pagoda, because at all times there will be alms at the altar, offered by someone before you. No matter how early you get there is always someone who can beat you in this endeavor.

The legend evolving around the five golden images of Phaung Daw Oo in Inlay Lake is also interesting. Every year in the month of Thadingyut (October) the Images tour along the Inlay Lake and stop at pre-determined points for the devout Buddhists to pray, donate and gain merit. The standing legend is that one holy image always stays behind in the Monastery. The lore goes that on one occasion all the five images left the monastery when a storm broke out, capsizing the royal barge. The frantic search redeemed only four images. In desperation the trustees returned to the monastery only to find with consternation, the missing image reposed sedately on the pedestal. A weed was found stuck to the lake. Since then only four images make the sacred trip every year.

The religious structures built and enshrined in Bagan in the tenth century of Golden Age and in all parts of Myanmar in succeeding dynasties of Myanmar kings consist of bell shaped stupas or pagodas, temples, cave temples and ordination halls *sinmas*. It was amazing that the magnificent pagodas were built mostly by reigning king, queens or royalty. Each religious edifice had its own history, invocations, blessings or messages for posterity to note. One pathetic example was Manuha Temple built by Captive King Manuha of Suvanna Bhumii Kingdom of Thaton in 1059 AD. It portrayed an allegory to physical discomfort and mental distress suffered by the captive king by its crampedness of structure inside.

There is another complex of ancient pagodas in the Southern Shan State thirty miles from Taunggyi near Mwetaw village, Ketku village tract. The legend goes back to King Asoka of India around 300 BC when the King converted to Buddhism propagated Buddhism most extensively. Another legend perpetuated during the reign of Bagan King Alaung Sithu, who mystically sailed the seas in his mythical barge. His Majesty purportedly arrived at this Ketku site and berthed at the bank. Thus the site was named 'Phaung-taw-site'. The number of pagodas encrypted in Myanmar alphabet came to 2548. One memorable prayer had so mesmerised me that I translated for you to share with me in sublime contemplation:

Blessings to ye...the noble and the learned devoted in virtue:

- May those whoever visit these auspicious premises to pay respects to the Buddha Relic donated by me;
- May those who offer with selfless generosity meals, flowers, offertories;
- May those who helped to perpetuate the Omniscient Light of Buddhism;
- May they all be blessed with power and glory, and come to possess the Royal Barge like me....

The pagodas, images and icons are but physical and material manifestations as objects of worship and meditation. The spiritual essence goes farther beyond. It is a refuge to contemplate on the Enlightened Omniscience of Lord Buddha and His teachings. These revered places of worship may still vibrate with the aura of peace and serenity of millions of devotees through the centuries of prayers, invocations, mantras, contemplation and boundless *metta* lovingkindness.

And in this mundane world, legends, myths and mystiques will continue to fascinate peoples, come what may!

63rd Meeting of Committee on Science and Technology kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—The 63rd Meeting of Committee on Science and Technology was opened at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for National

Ohn Khin, deputy ministers from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia, delegates of ASEAN countries, senior officers of the Ministry of Science and Technology and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that as science and technology and creativity play a key role in progress and prosperity of the region, Myanmar is

meeting will be beneficial to Competitive Sustainable and Inclusive ASEAN. Promotion of cooperation with partner countries will uplift creativity of the region and contribute to sustainable development of the region, he said.

After that, they posed for documentary photo.

In the evening, the Union Minister hosted a dinner to delegates from

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs...

(from page 16)

strengthening of friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Singapore.

At 12.15 pm, the Union Minister paid a courtesy call on Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore. At the meeting, the two ministers exchanged their views on matters relating to strengthening the existing friendship and cooperation and also on implementation of technical

cooperation programmes between Myanmar and Singapore on economic development, human resource development and public administration of Myanmar. The Union Minister also briefed his counterpart on the implementation of democratization and the efforts on national reconsolidation of Myanmar.

Later, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of Singapore hosted

a luncheon in honour of the visiting Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs. After the luncheon, the Myanmar delegation was briefed on the functions of Public Affairs Directorate and Diplomatic Academy by respective department heads of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

During the visit, the Union Minister inspected the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore yesterday afternoon and met the staff members of the Embassy.

MNA



Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint addresses opening session of 63rd Meeting of Committee on Science and Technology.—MNA



Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat

accelerating its endeavours on development of science and technology and innovative measures through ASEAN Science and Technology Committee. He expressed his firm belief that the discussions from the

ASEAN countries at the MICC.

The meeting will be held up to 18 May. The meetings of eight subject-wise subcommittees and two advisory boards were held on 14 and 15 May, attended

by 172 delegates of ASEAN countries.

On 18 May, the ASEAN-China, the ASEAN-EU, the ASEAN-Japan and the ASEAN-US Plenary Meetings will be held there.—MNA

Application for registration as political party submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—The Union Election Commission scrutinizes and passes applications for registration as of political

parties. Asho Chin National Party submitted an application for registration as political party to the UEC today.—MNA

Dy CPT Minister receives Executive Director of First Pacific Company

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Tint Lwin received Executive Director Mr Edward Tortorici of First Pacific Company and party of the Philippines at his office today.

At the call, both sides had a cordial discussion on bilateral

cooperation in mobile sector and promotion of cooperation in telecommunication technology. Also present at the call were Director-General U Khin Maung Thet of Directorate of Telecommunications, Head of Office U San Shwe Aung and responsible persons. MNA

Police Code of Conduct Test held in Yamethin

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—The Police Code of Conduct and writing test for policemen of Yamethin District Police Force were held at Basic Education Primary School in Yamethin on 5 May.

Altogether 50 officers and other ranks participated in two tests.

The tests were supervised by Commander of Yamethin District Police Force Police Lt-Col Kyaw Teza and party.—MNA



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife, CPC Central Politburo Member Mr Wang Gang and delegation members enjoy China-Myanmar Paukphaw Friendship Concert.—MNA



UMFCCI President, ADB Director-General hold talks

YANGON, 16 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin and U Tun Aung and CEC members received Director-General of Southeast Asia Regional Department of Asia Development Bank Mr Kunio Senga and party at the Federation here on 12 May.

They mainly focused on opening of courses on human resources development and capacity building, on-job training courses and handover of technology for economic development in Myanmar, sustainable development of private sector and tourism industry, and provision of aids by the federation to hold Green Economic Growth Forum in November 2012.—MNA

wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, delegation led by Member of Central Politburo of Communist Party of China Mr Wang Gang, Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Party U Htay Oo, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Yangon Region Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, Region ministers and their wives, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and embassy officials and guests enjoyed the concert.

Chinese artists troupe performed Chinese traditional songs, dances, circuit and magic and students of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) entertained the spectators with Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan dances.

The CPC Central Politburo member and the USDP Secretary-General posed for documentary with artistes and presented bouquet of flowers to leader of Chinese troupe Chen Mai and members.—MNA

Union Information and Culture Minister addresses Pakokku Literary Award, Scholarship, Pakokku Library Book Award Presentation Ceremony

YANGON, 16 May—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan delivered an address and presented awards at Pakokku U Ohn Pe-established Pakokku Literary Award, Scholarship and Pakokku Library Book Award Presentation Ceremony for 2011 at Chatrium Hotel here yesterday morning.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Yangon Region ministers, departmental heads and officials of the Information Ministry, officials of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Committee, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Fund Management Committee, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Selection Board and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Supervisory Committee, award winners, donors and guests.

The Union Minister said in his address Literary Award Presentation Ceremonies established by Pakokku U Ohn Pe will be held alternatively in Pakokku and Yangon from now on.

For this time it is held in Yangon. Donors and well-wishers are thanked for their contributions to raising fund after “Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award” was renamed as “Pakokku U Ohn Pe-established Pakokku Literary Award” since the previous year.

In addition to annually presented National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Literary Award, other private literary awards like Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award, Thuta Sweson Literary Award and Tun Foundation Literary Award are presented for welfare of the men of letters. One more new

President U Thein Sein said on 31 March, 2011, in his speech on government's policies that “the role of media, the Fourth Estate, need be taken into account, the media is to inform the people and constructive perspectives of the media are to be considered” in this regards. That is the attitude of the cabinet towards the media.

According to Section 354 Sub-section (a) of the constitution, any citizen could freely express, write and distribute their beliefs and opinions if it is subject to the security of the State, prevalence of law and order, community peace and stability and laws prescribed for morality of the people. Otherwise, journalists will enjoy freedom of expression in line with the law and need to abide strictly by Code of Ethics. The freedom needs to be preserved with the ethics.

To realize genuine Fourth Estate, media men are to (1) not be biased, (2) report news from various angles, (3) enjoy freedom and responsibility, freedom and rationality, and (4) to lead to unity in democracy in the interest of the country and people while enjoying freedom of expression, freedom of speech and freedom of divergence.

News media of the country is changing. Press freedom is incrementally granted. Press Council highly anticipated by the people will soon emerge. It will maintain the writings of the journalists to be in the framework of ethics.

Meanwhile, the media laws will soon be promulgated. Therefore, there will soon arrive a new media era which is in line with democratic system as aspired by those from the



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan awards first prize winner in novel category Pathein Aung Than Oo.

MNA

matriculation level, two outstanding students from the University of Culture, and 15 outstanding students who gained the highest marks yearly in five academic subjects were also presented scholarship out of the funds.

The literary award presentation ceremony held today is a sine qua non for human resources development and development of education sector. And it is also a ceremony which encourages the endeavours of the government for flourishing of literature and education. In other words, it is a ceremony in which all the people should take pride for combined efforts of the State and the people for improvement of Myanmar society. Hence, the literati who are present on the occasion are urged to do their bit in safeguarding the fine traditions of serving national interest, strive for flourishing of national literature, and improvement of the socio-economic status of the people.

Next, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan presented prizes to Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-time Achievement Literary Award winner Literati U Maung Maung Khin (Tekkatho Maung Maung Khin), Collected Poem First Prize winner Mye Latt Min Lwin, Collected Poem Second Prize winner Maung Lun Myaing (Pinlebu), Collected Poem Third Prize winner Maung Ni Hmaing (Kyauktan), Novel First Prize Winner Pethein Aung Than Oo, Novel Second Prize winner Nyunt Lu and Novel Third Prize winner Khin La Pyae Wun.

Afterwards, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein presented prizes to Collected Short Story second prize winner Nandar Khin (Thakkalamayay), Collected Short Story third prize winner Kyunsinmyay Saw Khet, Treatise First prize winner Maung Maung Chit Oo (Monywa), Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe to Research Paper first prize winner Dr Yin Yin Tun, Research Paper second prize winner Maung Kyaw Kyaw (Kwinkauk), Chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Committee U Tin Swe to Khin Maung Myint-Sagaing who won Pokkoku U Ohn Pe Library Book award for 2011. Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Fund Management Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Tun (Khin Maung Tun-Lanmadaw), Member Dr Thet Lwin, Chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Selection Board Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit), Director-General of Education Planning and Training Department U Bo Win, Director-General of No (1) Basic Education Department U Kyaw Thu and Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Ye Tint presented scholarships and outstanding prizes in particular subject. Chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Committee U Tint Swe, on behalf of late Pakokku U Ohn Pe, explained purpose of presentation of the prizes and Pakokku Life-time Achievement Literary Award winner U Maung Maung Khin (Tekkatho Maung Maung Khin), on behalf of award winners, spoke words of thanks.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, the chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Fund Management Committee and the chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Committee accepted cash donations to the fund and returned certificates of honours. The donations amounted to K 6.3 million in total.

The Union Minister cordially greeted those present at the ceremony and posed for documentary photo.—MNA



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan poses with those present and award winners at Pakokku U Ohn Pe-established Pakokku Literary Award, Scholarship and Pakokku Library Book Award Presentation Ceremony 2011.—MNA

award presented this year is “National Press Award”, a good news for media men.

In previous National Literary Award presentation ceremony on 29-12-2011, a book about Myanmar's culture and arts in English, in addition to publications in Myanmar language, was awarded. English manuscript will also be selected for a category of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award this year.

Now is time Myanmar is striving to build modern, developed, discipline-flourishing, democratic nation and to keep abreast of international community in terms of development. It is needed to publish more books which serve the interest of the people by broadening their horizons and righting their ideologies. Literati, bookworms and contributors are to work closely for such development.

On 30 March, 2011, the administration system was transitioned smoothly from the military rule to civilian rule in which representatives elected by the people rule the country on behalf of the people. Relaxations have been made to help the Fourth Estate emerge as the estate of freedom, responsibility and rationality.

media world.

At a time when efforts are being made for all-round development of the State steps are being taken for modernization of the nation and human resources development to be able to keep pace with the international community. In that regard, it is incumbent upon all the literati to create works of literature that can serve the national interest, widen the horizons of the people and forge nationalist spirit.

Pakokku Literary Awards founded by Pakokku U Ohn Pe was launched in 1993 and it has now turned 19th anniversary. During the 19 years, there are 225 literary award winners in five genres. The works of those literary winners were integrated into literatures in the form of books by Sarpay Beikman on a yearly basis.

Moreover, there was also the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifelong Literary Award for doyen literati who dedicated to literature in successive years, and there emerged 22 literati who won the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-time Achievement Literary Award including the one who won the award this year.

Furthermore, four outstanding Myanmar students of

Member of Central Politburo of CPC and party conclude visit



Member of Central Politburo of CPC Mr Wang Gang and party being seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 16 May—The visiting Chinese delegation led by Member of Central Politburo of the Communist Party of China and Vice-Chairman of National Committee of People's

Political Consultative Conference Mr Wang Gang left here by air this morning.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by CEC members of Union Solidarity and

Development Party U Aung Thein Lin and U Aung Tun and members, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and embassy officials.

MNA

Cash donated for social welfare works



YANGON, 16 May—Director David Yang of China (Taipei)-based Global Culture and Holistic Living Project and party donated K 1 million to Funeral Services Association (Yangon) in North Okkalapa Township here yesterday as the contribution to the progress of social and religious works across Myanmar.

A responsible person of the association accepted the donation and presented the donor with certificate of honour.—NLM

UMFCCI Vice-Presidents meet Italy delegation

YANGON, 16 May—Vice-Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, Joint General Secretary U Myint Soe, Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe and U Aye Lwin and entrepreneurs met with the delegation comprising entrepreneurs of six companies from Italy led by

CEO Mr Carlo Paseti of Ital-Cement of Italy at the federation on 26 April morning.

They discussed information for jewellery, energy, cement and transport services in Myanmar, progress of Myanmar, investment opportunities, industrial

sector, observation at cement plants, assistance to be provided by the federation for excursions of Italy entrepreneurs in Myanmar and bilateral cooperation in economic sector between entrepreneurs of the two countries.

UMFCCI



Third liaison office of KNU opened in Phayathonzu

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Kayin National Union-KNU, one of the national race groups that agreed ceasefire with the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar after holding peace talks opened the third liaison office in Phayathonzu yesterday morning.

It was attended by Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace-making Process Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and members Union Minister U Than Htay, Union Minister U Khin Yi, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, KNU members led by Maj-Gen Saw Mutu Say Po, Pado Saw Roger Khin, Pado David Htaw, Brig-Gen Saw Hsa Mi, Brig-Gen Johnny and Brig-Gen Dah Kyaw of Kayin National Union-KNU and peace negotiators of both sides.



Maj-Gen Saw Mutu Say Po of KNU speaks at the opening of third liaison office of KNU.—MNA

The liaison offices are playing an important role in implementation of the future

tasks for on-going peace process of both sides.

MNA

Advanced computer course concludes at DBE-1



YANGON, 16 May—Jointly organized by No. 1 Department of Basic

Education and Sort Guide Computer Co Ltd, the advanced computer course

DISTRICT NEWS

concluded at the ICT Training Hall of No. 1 BED on Natmauk Street in Bahan Township on 10 May.

Director-General of No. 1 Department of Basic Education U Kyaw Thu gave the concluding remarks. He then presented gifts to the instructors and first, second and third prizes to outstanding trainees.

Later, he presented certificates to the trainees.

Myanma Alin

Free funeral services given in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 16 May—Mandalay City Development Committee is giving funeral transport services free of charge as of 1 May.

The vehicles of funeral services are being parked at Mandalay General Hospital and Factories and Vehicles Department of Mandalay City

Development Committee. Any person may dial 02-81316 and 02-80157.

Over 50 social welfare associations in Mandalay and its surrounding areas are giving free funeral vehicle services to the needy people.

Kyemon

Mandalay to host women's football tournament in SEA Games

MANDALAY, 16 May—The women's football tournament in the XXVII SEA Games will be held at the international level stadium being built in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay.

On 2 May, Secretary of

the SEA Games Preparation Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu met hoteliers at Irrawaddy River View Hotel

in Mandalay and discussed accommodation and reception for the contesting teams.

Kyemon

Mawlamyinegyun opens self-reliant rural library

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 16 May—Nawade self-reliant library was opened in Katthahmyin Village of Katthahmyin Htiseik Yekyaw Village-tract in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 5 May morning.

Head of Township

Information and Public Relations Department Daw Thida Aung, Village-tract Administrator U Win Myint and Library Committee Chairman U Aung Kyi formally opened the library.

Next, Township Information and Public

Relations Department donated 100 books and journals and U Hoke Kyaing and family of Mawlamyinegyun 585 books and journals.

Chairman of the library committee U Aung Kyi accepted the donations.

The 20 square feet library was built at a cost of K 6 million by the local people.—Myanma Alin



DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE TALKED: The talk on development of cooperative tasks was held at the hall of Sanpya Theingon Village Administrative Office in Yamethin Township on 10 May. Staff Officer U Zaw Lin of Township Cooperative Department replies to submissions of cooperative members.—MYANMA ALIN

250 boys initiated into novice hood in Dedaye

DEDAYE, 16 May—Altogether 250 boys who became orphans in aftermath of Storm Nrgis was novitiated at Mingala KanU Monastery in Ohbin Village of Dedaye Township in Pyapon District of Ayeyawady Region on 29 April morning.

The ceremony was sponsored for the 14th time by Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhaja U Than Naing (Rakhine State Hluttaw representative)-Agga Maha Thiri

Thudhamma Theingi Daw Kyi Kyi Swe of Thamada Robe House under the auspices of Presiding Nayaka of Nanda Aungmyay Monastery of Leikpyagan Monastery in Bahan Township of Yangon Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nimala.

The novice-to-be were taken by Pyi Nyein Chan three-decker ship in Pyapon River, flanked by local people along both banks of the river.

Myanma Alin

CRIME REDUCTION TALKED: A talk on reduction of crime was held at the administrative office of Kyeepwayay Ward in Thuwunna of Thingangyun Township on 9 May. Ward Administrator U Aye Ko explains reduction of crimes.—SAN SAN KYI-THINGANGYUN



Talks on crime free week given in Thingangyun

YANGON, 16 May—A talk on crime free week staged by Thingangyun Township Police Force of Yangon East District was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department

of Yangon Region in 10 May afternoon.

Commander of Yangon East District Police Force Lt-Col Myint Aye gave an address on crime free week in the township.

Hinthada Township constitutes writers association

HINTHADA, 16 May—The formation of Hinthada Township Writers Association was held at the meeting room of Township General Administration Department on 30 April morning.

Deputy Head of Township General

Administration Department U Zaw Moe Aung chaired the election commission together with members Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Aye Aye Mar and writer U Myo Myint Thein (Myo Thit).

Attendees elected five

executives for organizing the township association.

The five executives secretly elected U Ko Ko Gyi as Chairman U Aye Swe as Secretary, Daw Khin Saw Win as Treasurer, executives U Myint Aung and U Than Oo.

Myanma Alin

Stake driven for construction of school building in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 16 May—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of new building at Basic Education Primary School was held at the place at the junction of Yepyar and Daw Phwa Shin Roads in Ward 18 of Shwepyitha Township on 12 May morning.

At the ceremony, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Maung Maung Win, township level officials, townsenders and construction committee members drove stakes for the



building.

The Region Hluttaw representative presented K 2 million for the first time to Treasurer U Thein Kyi of the

committee for laying cornerstones. The building will be 120x30 feet RC six-classroom facility.

Myanma Alin

HMAWBY, 16 May—A ceremony to open Myawady Library was held in Nyaungnapin Village of Hmawby Township in Yangon Region on 8 May morning.

Hmawby Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lwin, Staff Officer Daw Khin Thida Oo of Yangon North District Information and Public Relations Department and Village Administrator U Pho Pyae formally opened the new building.

The township administrator made a speech. The staff officer of District IPRD

explained the purpose of opening the library.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Aye Thein, on behalf of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, donated 150 books, Dr U Aung Soe-Daw Aye Aye Thet, U Ye Win, U Tun Shwe-Daw Thein Aye and U Tint Swe books and publications. Librarian U Tint Swe accepted the donations.

At 11 am, Pyinnya Alin Library was also opened at Kyagansu Village of Nyaungnapin Village tract.—Township IPRD

Village libraries put into service in Hmawby Township



Self-reliant earthen road constructed in Yedashe Township

YEDASHE, 16 May—The self-reliant earthen road was constructed for ensuring convenient transport of Kyuzaung Village and Aye Thukha Village in Thagara overflowed annually by Sittoung River in rainy season in Yedashe Township of Bago Region.

Local people of Kyuzaung Village faced difficulties in traveling due to overflow of Sittoung River in the rainy season.

Thus, local people constructed a half mile long earthen road between



Kyuzaung and Aye Thukha villages.

The newly-built

earthen road is higher than the highest water level of overflow from Sittoung River.

That is why the road will serve better transport for the local people, said villagers.

Kyemon



Information for trafficking in person

The government is taking preventive measures against trafficking in person

with momentum. In so doing, telephone numbers are announced as

focal points to contact authorities concerned with the aim of enabling people

to actively participate in anti-trafficking in persons.

These telephone numbers are 067-412555 and 067-412666 in Nay

Pyi Taw, 09-49555666 in Muse, 09-49555777 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG SRIMUANG VOYNO(107)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG SRIMUANG VOY NO (107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-5-2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T(3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Dog, nappy and football found in Aussie crocodile



Estuarine crocodiles, better known as saltwater crocs or salties, are common in Australia's tropical Northern Territory. Rangers who recently shot a croc that had been terrorising pets found a dog, a football and a pair of shorts in its stomach.—INTERNET

SYDNEY, 16 May—Rangers who shot a saltwater crocodile that was terrorising pets in northern Australia found a dog, a pair of shorts, a football and a nappy in its stomach, according to a local report.

Police had recently notified authorities that a

crocodile had eaten at least one dog and was lunging at others on a beach near the community of Galwinku.

The Northern Territory News said rangers who went to the area on Tuesday saw the 3.5 metre (11 feet 6 inches) crocodile grab a dog by the leg, so they shot the reptile.

As well as finding the remains of a dog in its stomach, they discovered a variety of other items.

"While it might make a comical headline, it is disturbing to see the volume of rubbish in a wild animal," said the newspaper, which routinely runs crocodile stories on its front page.

Saltwater crocodiles, which can grow up to seven metres long and weigh more than a tonne, are a common feature of Australia's tropical north and kill an average of two people a year.

Internet



Photo taken on 15 May, 2012 shows a flying machine used to take aerial photos of the cave-in disaster areas in Liuzhou City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Backfilling work started in Liuzhou on Tuesday after experts said it is right time to backfill the pits caused by cave-ins, based on repeated surveys. A geological disaster, which affected a total of 40,000 square meters of ground in Maohe village of Liuzhou on 10 May, damaged 94 houses, including eight that collapsed. The disaster was caused by several factors, including the dissolution of soluble bedrock layers — which is how karst is shaped — loose earth and the fluctuation of groundwater levels, according to the rescue headquarters.

XINHUA

Report says Texas executed an innocent man



Carlos DeLuna before and after his arrest.—INTERNET

CORPUS CHRISTI, 16 May—A 400-page article in Columbia University's Columbia Human Rights Law Review asserts Texas convicted and executed the wrong man in a 1983 killing.

The article examines the arrest, prosecution and 1989 execution of Carlos DeLuna in the death of Wanda Lopez, 24, who was fatally stabbed during a robbery at a Corpus Christi gas station, the Houston Chronicle reported.

In prosecuting DeLuna, the state bypassed Carlos Hernandez, a man who the article said had bragged about killing Lopez and laughed about DeLuna being convicted of the crime.

Hernandez had claimed to have strangled a young woman and carved an "X" into her back with her child sleeping nearby but was never convicted of the crime and served prison time for convenience store robberies and for slicing a female friend's belly from her sternum to her navel. Hernandez died in prison

three years after his parole was revoked in 1996 after he attacked a woman with a knife.

DeLuna, 27 when he was executed, was described to the article's researchers by acquaintances as "childlike" and a "follower." He had convictions for auto theft and attempted rape.

Police had sharply differing descriptions of the robber, with a gas station customer reporting seeing a shabby man who was unshaven and had a mustache and a nearby couple saying they spotted a neatly groomed man wearing a white

shirt and dress pants.

Hernandez normally dressed sloppily and had a mustache. The night of the robbery, DeLuna had worn a white shirt.

DeLuna has said he saw Lopez and Hernandez struggling through the windows of the gas station minutes after Hernandez had made a purchase there.

Witnesses at the station identified DeLuna as the culprit when police took him back to the station in a patrol car. But the only witness who saw Lopez struggling with the robber told journal authors he was only 70

percent sure of the identification and if police had not told him DeLuna had been caught nearby, he would have been only 50 percent sure.

Lopez bled profusely after the killer's knife sliced an artery but DeLuna's body and clothing contained no trace of blood, the article said.

Steve Schiwetz, who was lead prosecutor at DeLuna's trial, said he had not read the journal article but disputed its conclusions, as related by a reporter. "These guys are crusaders," Schiwetz said. "What can I say?"

Schiwetz, now in private practice, dismissed DeLuna's original court defence and said he had rebuttals for several assertions in the article, the Chronicle said.

He said DeLuna had confessed his guilt to a sheriff's deputy — a claim the journal researchers disputed.

Internet

Vietnam's 2nd satellite successfully launched into orbit

HANOI, 16 May—Vietnam's second satellite, the VINASAT-2, roared off the launch pad aboard an Ariane 5 rocket at 22:13 GMT Tuesday from Guiana Space Centre at the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, Vietnamese state-run news agency reported on Wednesday.

Thirty-five minutes after being launched, the satellite was separated from the rocket and went into orbit, the state-run Vietnam News Agency reported. Witnessing the launching ceremony broadcast live at the Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications Group (VNPT), Vietnamese Prime Minister

Nguyen Tan Dung said the successful launch of VINASAT-2 is an important step to build Vietnam stronger in the field of information technology, according to the report.

Together with VINASAT-1 which launched in 2008, VINASAT-2 will help ensure the safe and stable provision of services, intensify the safety of the national telecommunication network, and expand the provision of telecom, audio-visual and internet services across the country. It will also support national socio-economic development, natural disaster mitigation, and national defence and security,

according to VNPT, which reported that currently about 90 percent of the VINASAT-1's capacity has been tapped.

With a total investment of 300 million US dollars, VINASAT-2, constructed by US-based Lockheed Martin,

is outfitted with Ku-band transmission beams capable of blanketing Southeast Asia and adjacent areas.

The satellite weighs approximately 3 tons and has a lifespan of 15 years, offering direct television broadcasting, telecommunications and Internet services, according to Vietnam News Agency.

MNA/Xinhua



A girl stands beside her donkey while waiting for getting water at Bit al-Haidari district, 200 km south of Yemeni capital Sanaa on 15 May, 2012.—XINHUA

EU, Gabon sign agreement on \$ 24 m drainage project

LIBREVILLE, 16 May—The European Union (EU) and Gabon have signed an agreement worth 12 billion FCFA (24 million US dollars) for the management of the drainage system in Libreville, the Gabonese Capital.

Under the agreement inked Monday, the EU will contribute 12 million euros and Gabon 7 million euros to the project. "Thanks to this project, we shall help Gabon to improve the living conditions of her citizens, through socio-economic development," said Christina Martins Barreira, who heads the EU delegation in the Economic Community of Central African States.

She said, "The choice of this programme was not accidental" because some of Libreville's districts are highly populated and that people live in deplorable conditions.

The project was signed under the auspices of the National Indicative Programme of the 10th European Development Fund, which targets urban drainage in the Central African country.—MNA/Xinhua

Judge orders suspect to write book reports

A San Francisco man accused of trying to sell a grenade launcher was ordered released on bond on the condition he read each day and write book reports.

Otis Mobley Jr, 23, was indicted last month alongside cousin Khushar Mobley, 18, and Dmarce Hutcherson, 19, on charges of conspiracy to commit robbery, assault on a federal officer, robbery and a weapons violation, the *San Francisco Chronicle*

reported. Prosecutors said the men arranged to sell a grenade launcher to an undercover agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives 28 March and the sale was actually a ruse for a planned robbery.

The men pulled guns on the undercover agent and attempted to rob him, but fellow agents joined him and Hutcherson was shot and wounded by an agent.

US Magistrate Judge

Kandis Westmore ruled 23 April for Mobley to be released on \$150,000 bond and wear an ankle monitor with GPS tracking. Prosecutors appealed the ruling, saying Mobley is a flight risk, but US District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers upheld the bond ruling.

Rogers said a condition of Mobley's bond requires him to spend an hour reading books every day and at least a half an hour writing book reports.



Boot-shaped chicken nugget up for auction

A Florida sheriff's office is selling a chicken nugget shaped like a cowboy boot to benefit its programme for children.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office said Sgt Dennis Coleman found the boot-shaped nugget in a meal he bought Sunday from

Dion's Quikmart in Marathon and decided to save it and post it on eBay to benefit the Keys Kops for Kids programme, KeysNet.com reported Tuesday. "Don't let this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity pass you by," Coleman said of the auction, which started bidding at \$5.

Shoplifter had the boat, stole the fish

A store security agent in Florida said an alleged shoplifter walked out of a supermarket with an order of fish down his pants and left in a car pulling a boat.

It may never be known if the culprit was it a fisherman compensating for striking out on the water, but he was wearing a T-shirt with a fish

on the back and escaped with \$44 worth of flounder and \$12 worth of shrimp, the security agent said.

Tepalm said the agent at the Publix store told Martin County Sheriff's Office the caper occurred earlier this month when she saw two men at the seafood counter ordering fish.

One man paid for his order but his friend apparently didn't feel like waiting in line and exited with his order hidden in his shorts.

Both men drove off in a silver pickup truck towing a boat, but not before the security agent wrote down a possible license number.

News Album

Jessica Sanchez gives hometown performance

WASHINGTON, 16 May—Jessica Sanchez, one of the three finalists of "American Idol", gave a performance for hundreds of fans in her US hometown of Chula Vista before the grand finale.

Escorted by police, the 16-year-old Sanchez took part in a parade with marching bands and then performed before 6,000 people in the East Lake High School football stadium.

During her brief concert, videos of which will be used

neighbour of the Sanchez family who came to the event, told EFE. The singer arrived on Friday in San Diego together with her mother, Editha, from Los Angeles where "American Idol" is filmed, in a helicopter that landed at the Petco Park baseball stadium. Jessica is the daughter of Editha, a Filipino, and Gilbert Sanchez, a Mexican-American serving in the US Navy. —Internet



Jessica Sanchez, one of the three finalists of "American Idol", INTERNET

in the grand finale of this season's "American Idol", Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox read a proclamation establishing 12 May as "Jessica Sanchez Day".

The Sanchez family went onstage to present a bouquet of flowers to their teen, who said that "this is the best day of my life". "It makes us proud that a local represents us with so much talent and so much modesty and that she acts so maturely even though she's only 16," Mayra Llavorad, a

Paris Hilton to release new single in June



Socialite Paris Hilton

LOS ANGELES, 16 May—Socialite Paris Hilton is set to release her brand new single "After Midnight" in June.

"I was just in the studio with Redfoo the other night, so we're going to be doing my new single with LMFAO. I'm so excited. The music's turning out so great and I can't wait to release it this summer," aceshowbiz.com quoted Hilton as saying. Hilton plans to shoot the music video later this month. She is likely to perform on the song at the Pop Musical Festival in Sao Paulo, on 23 June.

"It's completely different from my last album. I'm going with a whole new genre. I have Afrojack executive-producing the entire album. So we've just been coming up with the most incredible tracks," she said.

Hilton's first album "Paris" was released in 2006 by her own label, Heirss Records, in association with Warner Bros. —Internet

Eva Longoria wants to become producer



Actress Eva Longoria

LOS ANGELES, 16 May—Actress Eva Longoria says she is more excited to further her experience as a producer and wants to step behind the camera. "I love being on the scenes.

The reason I love to produce is that I have a very strong business mind so I like putting the pieces together. I like the creative process," showbizspy.com quoted Longoria as saying.

Sharing her thoughts on acting and producing, she said: "As an actor, you don't control anything but the performance. You don't edit, you don't direct, you don't build sets, you don't write it and you really have no control over the outcome."

"As a producer you have a lot of control so I'm kind of a control freak. I'm really bossy and I really enjoy being behind the camera and I definitely will be doing more of it," she added. —Internet

Beyonce pays handwritten tribute to mom



Singer Beyonce Knowles

LONDON, 16 May—Singer Beyonce Knowles paid tributes to her mother by publishing an emotional handwritten note in her honour on Mother's Day.

The 30-year-old penned a letter to her mother Tina and released it on her official website Sunday, reports contactmusic.com. In the note titled "Dear Mama", Beyonce thanks Tina for raising her

Johnny Depp loved scary movies as a kid



Actor Johnny Depp

LOS ANGELES, 16 May—Actor Johnny Depp, famous for his dark and quirky portrayal in the "Pirates of Caribbean" series, says as a child he used to love watching horror movies.

"I certainly had this fascination with monsters and vampires, darkness, mystery and intrigue growing up," showbizspy.com quoted Depp as saying. "Then, as you get older, you recognize the erotic nature of the vampire and the

idea of the undead," he added. Internet

and helping her become a good mother to her daughter, Blue.

"Everything I am is because of you. You are the first voice that ever sang to me. At every turn you push me to be better. You teach me to be true to myself and the ones I love... When I look into your eyes, I am so proud. Now that I'm a mother, I truly realise the sacrifices you made for us. My love for you goes beyond what I can say. Happy, Happy Mama's Day," she wrote. Internet

World's tallest Lego tower built in Seoul

Lego officials in South Korea announced the completion of the world's largest Lego tower, measuring 104 feet, 8 inches tall, with the crown prince of Denmark placing the final brick on the structure.

Lego Korea said the tower, which was built in Seoul during the weekend by 4,000 young contest winners, was planned to mark the 80th anniversary of the Lego group.

The final brick was placed Sunday to defeat the previous world record of 103 feet, 8 inches, which was set in France, Lego Korea said.



John Travolta

Travolta accuser drops lawsuit

LOS ANGELES, 16 May—John Travolta's lawyer says the man who filed a sexual battery lawsuit against the Hollywood star dropped his claim on Tuesday.

Attorney Marty Singer said he expects a second unidentified man, a cruise ship staffer, to withdraw his allegations as well.

The second man has not filed any formal legal documents in the matter, but has discussed it with the press.

Both accusers said the "Pulp Fiction" and "Grease" icon groped and sexually harassed them.

"My client is completely vindicated by Doe No 1 dropping his claims and dismissing his lawsuit," Singer said in a statement to E! News. "We fully expect that my client will similarly be vindicated with respect to Doe No 2, as well as with respect to any other person who makes meritless claims against John Travolta."

The actor is married to actress Kelly Preston and is the father of her two children.

Internet

Djokovic returns to form with Tomic win in Rome

ROME, 16 May—Novak Djokovic was back on top form as he brushed aside rising Australian talent Bernard Tomic 6-3, 6-3 to reach the third round of the Rome Masters on Tuesday.

While Andy Murray narrowly avoided defeat on his 25th birthday and there were struggles for Maria Sharapova and Petra Kvitová in the women's event, Djokovic looked every inch the world number one on his way to a confident victory.

Dressed in matching shirt and shorts with the colours of the Serbia flag down one side, Djokovic took just 69 minutes to see off Tomic and erase the memories of his quarter-final defeat on the blue clay of Madrid.

The manner of his victory was in stark contrast to that of

Murray, who had to battle from 3-1 down in the final set to beat Argentina's David Nalbandian for his place in round three. Britain's



Novak Djokovic of Serbia serves during the second round match of men's singles against Bernard Tomic of Australia at the Rome Masters tennis tournament in Rome, Italy, 15 May, 2012. Djokovic won 2-0 to enter the next round.—XINHUA

world number four, a semi-finalist here last year, romped through the first set but had to dig deep in the third to claim a 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 victory.

"After the last couple of weeks I have had, I am so

happy to win," said Murray, who missed Madrid with a back injury. "Getting the break back immediately in the third was important and I got a bit lucky at the end but I went for it and sometimes you make your luck."

The luck came on a dead net cord at 5-5 in the deciding set which gave him the break and he served out for victory before blowing out a candle on his birthday cake on court.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and David Ferrer, seeded fifth and sixth respectively, advanced but Gael Monfils, seeded 13, was beaten 7-5, 6-3 by former world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero.

In the women's draw, Madrid champion and ninth seed Serena Williams eased into the event with a 6-2, 6-3 second round win over Galina Voskoboeva of Kazakhstan.

Holder and second seed Maria Sharapova battled past American world number 36 Christina McHale 7-5, 7-5 to reach the third round, having trailed 4-1 and 5-3 in the opening set.—Internet

Di Matteo ready for toughest Champions League test

LONDON, 16 May—Roberto Di Matteo is bracing for the toughest managerial challenge of his career as he attempts to lead an injury and suspension-hit Chelsea to Champions League glory over Bayern Munich.

Just 10 weeks after taking over at Stamford Bridge following the sacking of Andre Villas-Boas, Di Matteo has already overseen a string of notable performances including an unforgettable semi-final win over Barcelona. But the Italian believes that orchestrating a win over Bayern on their home ground on Saturday would represent his greatest triumph as he attempts to pull together a Chelsea side decimated by injuries and suspensions.

Chelsea will be without suspended captain John Terry and fullback Branislav Ivanovic as well as inspirational midfielder Ramires and Raul Meireles. Di Matteo is also sweating on the fitness of defenders Gary Cahill and David Luiz along

with midfielder Florent Malouda. Given the circumstances, Di Matteo agreed he faced the most

Chelsea. Chelsea say no decision on a long-term successor to Villas-Boas will be taken until the season has



Chelsea coach Roberto Di Matteo at a press conference on 15 May. He is bracing for the toughest managerial challenge of his career as he attempts to lead an injury and suspension-hit Chelsea to Champions League glory over Bayern Munich.—INTERNET

challenging tactical assignment of his career. "With all the problems that we have it's certainly causing me a headache," the 41-year-old said. Despite overseeing a rebound in Chelsea's fortunes, which included an FA Cup victory as well as their passage to the Champions League final, Di Matteo has yet to be given any assurances about his long-term future at

ended, and Di Matteo insists he is happy to wait. "I'm very relaxed about it," Di Matteo said.

"I just have a big drive and a big motivation to do something extraordinary for this club and that's all I want to do. And whatever comes afterwards — well, there's always a reason for things that happen."

Internet

International Sports



A match programme for the 1909 FA Cup final between Manchester United and Bristol City fetched a world-record price of £23,500 (\$37,600) at a public auction on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Man United FA Cup final programme breaks record

LONDON, 16 May—A match programme for the 1909 FA Cup final between Manchester United and Bristol City fetched a world-record price of £23,500 at a public auction on Tuesday.

It beat the previous record of £21,850 paid in 2006 for a programme from the 1889 FA Cup final. "The 1909 FA Cup Final between Manchester United and Bristol City was Manchester United's first ever appearance in an FA Cup final and Bristol

City's only ever appearance in an FA Cup final," said auctioneer Graham Budd. "It is extremely scarce and the first time that one has ever been offered at auction. It was bought by a UK collector."

"With Manchester United a global brand, there was some discussion it might go overseas but it did not in the end." Manchester United beat Bristol City 1-0 at Crystal Palace to claim the first of the 11 FA Cup trophies they have won to date.—Internet

Half of 2014 World Cup stadiums a concern: FIFA consultant

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 May—Football's world governing body FIFA believes that six of 12 Brazilian stadiums that are to host the 2014 World Cup may not be ready in time, the daily *Folha de Sao Paulo* reported on Tuesday.

The paper cited a study by a FIFA consultant on the stadium construction or renovation programme pointing to various degrees "of risk" for arenas in Manaus, Curitiba, Porto Alegre, Curitiba and Sao Paulo.

But the biggest concern is for the stadium in the northeastern city of Natal because of a "tight schedule" that left no "margin for problems", it added.

Manaus and Curitiba have "medium risk" while Curitiba and Porto Alegre

have "low risk", with a greater chance of being ready in time.

The report indicated that two years before the World Cup gets underway, work on the 12 stadiums have progressed on average by 34.4 per cent.

"The outlook for the 2013 Confederations Cup is even more critical. FIFA

reports delays in three of the four venues for the competition," *Folha* said.

In a statement, FIFA however said the document cited by *Folha* was an internal monitoring report developed at the end of April for stadium experts.

"This document is for the stadium experts and can be

easily misinterpreted without the respective background information on the various evaluation criteria and parameters," it noted.

"What is important though is the significant progress which has been made at the venues for the FIFA Confederations Cup Brazil 2013, particularly Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador," football's world governing body said.

The Confederations Cup, seen as a dress rehearsal for the World Cup, will be held from 15 to 30 June next year in four confirmed cities: Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte and Fortaleza. Recife and Salvador could be added depending on progress on the work.

Internet



Picture taken on 14 May, of Brasilia's National Stadium, under construction for the FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014.—INTERNET

Cahill slams Cabaye after accepting ban

LONDON, 16 May—Everton's Australian attacking midfielder Tim Cahill launched a broadside at Newcastle's French international Yohan Cabaye after accepting a three-match ban for his red card in his side's 3-1 victory last Sunday.

Cahill, 32, accused Cabaye of using offensive language at the end of the match, which saw the Australian react by grappling with the Frenchman and being red-carded.

Everton appealed against the red card but it was



Everton's Australian attacking midfielder Tim Cahill, pictured in 2011.

INTERNET rejected earlier on Tuesday by the Football Association (FA). "I accept my three-match ban," Cahill said in a statement. "My reaction at the end of the game was out of character but I was disgusted at comments made

to me by Cabaye. "I don't wish to elaborate on the exact detail of what was said — but his words have no place either on or off the football pitch."

"Cabaye has apologised via his club's website and as far as I am concerned, the matter is now closed." Cabaye also issued an apology on Newcastle's website.

"I would like to apologise for the cross words I exchanged with Tim Cahill, which resulted in his red card and my booking on the final whistle," said the 26-year-old, who has impressed in his first season in the Premier League after signing from 2011 French champions Lille.

Internet

Man Utd's Ferguson meets Kagawa

MANCHESTER, 16 May—Japan international Shinji Kagawa revealed on Wednesday that he had met Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson, as rumours swirl that the Borussia Dortmund star is eyeing a move to the Premier League.

The midfielder said the Scot, one of football's most successful managers, had "good words" to say about him during two hours of talks in Manchester this week.

Kagawa, who still has a year to run on his contract with the German champions and has stalled over signing

an extension with the club, said he wanted to "think hard" before deciding where his future lay. "It was good that I was able to meet him in person and talk," Kagawa told reporters on his return ahead of Japan's friendly against Azerbaijan. Ferguson "had some good words," the player added when asked by journalists at Tokyo's Haneda Airport about the meeting, without disclosing what they discussed.

The 23-year-old scored 17 goals this season in all competitions to help Dortmund secure a second

consecutive Bundesliga title and win the domestic double for the first time in their 103-year history.—Internet



Japanese forward Shinji Kagawa has revealed that he had met Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson, as rumours swirl that the Borussia Dortmund star is eyeing a move to the Premier League.—INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-5-12 09:30 am ~ 18-5-12 09:30 am) MST

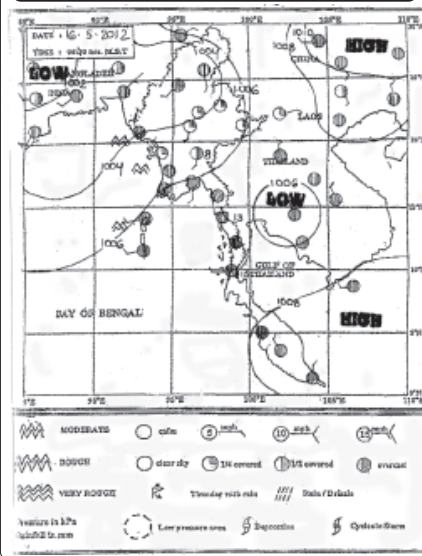
- * News
- * Laurent Conson Concert
- * News
- * A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * News
- * Songs for you
- * News
- * Mya Setkyar Pure Silk Fabric From Inlay Lake
- * News
- * Historic Kyaukka Shwe Gu Ni Pagoda
- * Better Products for a Cleaner Environment
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Soft Crab Breeding Procedure
- * News
- * A Round the Maha Boditahtauang
- * Myanmar Movie "My Teacher"

MYANMAR TV

(17-5-2012)(Thursday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:25 am
- 4. Teleplay (Argi)
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 4:30 pm
- 6. Musical Programme
- 4:45 pm
- 7. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm
- 8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:05 pm
- 9. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 5:20 pm
- 10. Song Programme
- 6:20 pm
- 11. Myanmar Series
- 6:40 pm
- 12. Approaching Science Discovery World
- 7:00 pm
- 13. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. Documentary
- 16. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 17th May, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	40/100	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	32/90	20/68	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
3	Rajin	34/93	23/73	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chin	34/75	14/57	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	40/104	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	43/109	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Tamulay	32/90	23/73	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	37/99	28/82	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
9	Magway	44/111	29/84	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	42/108	29/84	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	34/93	23/73	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	37/99	26/79	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
13	Rakhine	34/93	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	27/81	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	38/100	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	38/100	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	36/97	26/79	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nya U Taw	40/104	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	37/99	26/79	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	42/108	29/84	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Tamulay Region, scattered in Chin, Kayah and Mon States, isolated in Bago Region, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperature were (7°C) to (7°C) above May average temperatures in Sagaing and Magway Regions, Northern and Eastern Shan, Chin States, (1°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Regions and Rakhine State and about May average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chuk and Maba (46°C) each, Kalayna, Monywa, Myingyan, Nyaung-U and Mawlaik (44°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Bham (1.22) inches, Lashan (1.02) inches and Kankhath (0.91) inch. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

School-based disaster risk reduction opens in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 16 May—Jointly organized by Myanmar Red Cross Society and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the school-based disaster risk reduction (leading talkers) was opened at the hall of Basic Education High School in Tachilek on 14 May morning.

At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner U Thet Lwin of Tachilek District General Administration Department made a speech.

Altogether 20 educational staff from Tachilek, Kengtung, Mongphyat and Monghsat Districts of Shan State (East) and



four Red Cross Brigade members attended the one-week course.—Myanma Alin

Cuban men's volleyball team to play FIVB World League in Japan

HAVANA, 16 May—The Cuban men's volleyball team traveled to Japan on Tuesday for a shot at a place in the finals of the world's top volleyball tournament, the International Football Federation's (FIVB) World League.

The Cubans are slated to play against the locals on opening day of the tournament, on 18 May, in Hamamatsu. They go on to play the Serbs the next day, and finally last year's champs, the Russians, on 20 May, according to organizers.

For the first time since the league games were established in 1990, each week the games will feature four pools in four cities until the 16 teams from 16 countries are narrowed down for this year's finals in Sofia, Bulgaria from 4 to 8 July, with the sure participation of the host squad, the top four teams of the qualifying groups and the best second place.

The extensive 18 May to 1 July competition schedule includes four preliminary phases, with homefield rotation among the members of each group. Canada, Finland, Brazil and Poland

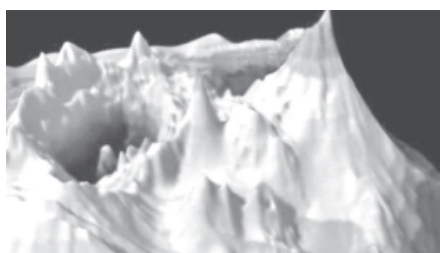
make up group B, starting in Toronto, Canada; the United States, France, South Korea and Italy are in group C, starting in Florence, Italy; and Bulgaria, Argentina, Portugal and Germany constitute group D, starting in Frankfurt, Germany.

The 2011 FIVB World League saw Russia finish first, followed by Brazil and Poland in second and third place respectively. With London's Olympic Games starting soon after the FIVB tourney ends, teams are expected to be playing their best.

Cuba, ranked fifth in the world, still has a shot at qualifying for London's Olympic Games. The squad garnered the bronze medal in a similar volleyball tournament in Long Beach, California (US), securing a place in an upcoming tournament in Berlin June 8, where a win would mean a ticket to the Olympics.

Cuba's women's team, however, lost its chance by losing to the Dominican Republic at recent pre-Olympic games in Tijuana, Mexico.—Internet

Violent life of undersea volcano studied



Sonar images of an underwater volcano.—INTERNET

OXFORD, 16 May—British researchers say sonar has captured the violent rise and collapse of an undersea volcano in the Pacific Ocean.

The images of the Monowai volcano near Tonga were gathered from a

research ship during a seabed survey last year, researchers said. Scientists from Oxford University said they recorded huge changes in the height of the volcano in just two weeks.

The findings are "a wake-up call that the sea-floor may be more dynamic than we previously thought," researcher Tony Watts told the BBC. "I've spent my career studying the seabed and have generally thought it pretty stable so it's stunning to see so much change in such a short space of time,"

he said.

In just two weeks, researchers said, one part of the volcano's summit had collapsed by as much as 62 feet while new lava flows had raised another area by 260 feet.

Only Vesuvius and Mount St Helens have recorded larger growth rates, they said.

The findings are "a reminder of how rapidly geological processes such as submarine landsliding and volcanism can occur," the scientists said.

Internet

test on the Sacramento River using smartphones with global positioning system capabilities could transform the way government agencies monitor one of the state's most precious resources.

The Floating Sensor Network project is intended

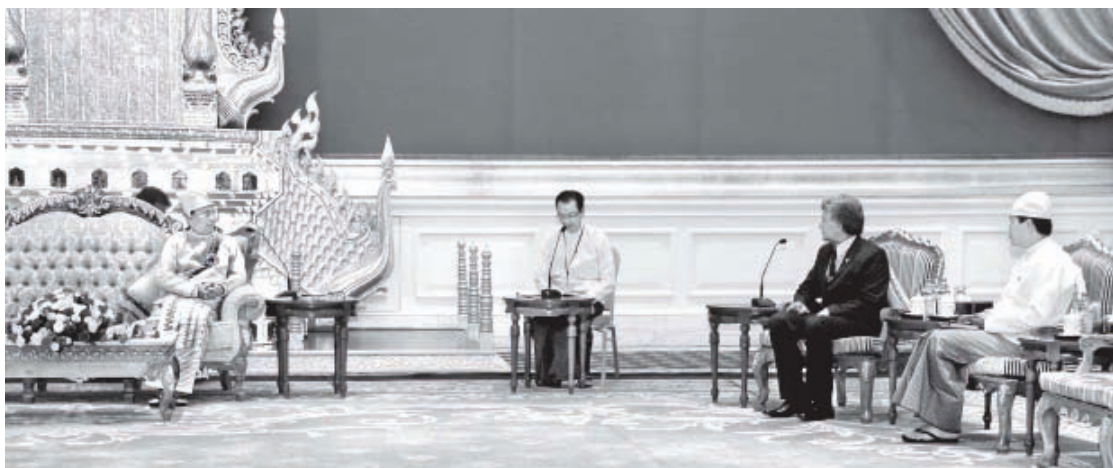
to test a network of mobile sensors that can be deployed rapidly to provide real-time, high-resolution data in hard-to-map waterways, UC Berkeley reported.

Such data is vital for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, with its complex network of channels that directs drinking water to two-thirds of California's population and provides irrigation water for 3 million acres of agriculture, researchers said. One hundred robots carrying GPS-enabled smartphones were used in the test, they said.

"The mobile probes we are using could potentially expand coverage in the Delta —on demand—to hundreds of miles of natural and man-made channels that are currently under-monitored, and help agencies responsible for managing the state's limited water supply," researcher Alexandre Bayen said. Such a flexible system could be critical in the event of an emergency, including a levee breach or oil spill, the researchers said. The sensors could be thrown into action from a dock, shore, boats or even helicopters, they said.

Internet

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Pakistani Ambassador



President U Thein Sein receives Ambassador of the State of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr Amjad Majid Abbasi at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Mr Amjad Majid Abbasi, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the State of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, here, at 11.30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General of the Protocol Department U Aye Thaw.

MNA

Football clubs of Mandalay Region meet

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—The coordination meeting of football clubs from Mandalay Region that will take part in the Inter-Region/State Challenge Cup Tournament to be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 June was held at the hall of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department yesterday morning.

Deputy Director Mandalay Region SPED U Wai Zin gave instructions on systematic formation of the football clubs to keep abreast of other clubs in the tournament.

MNA

Self-reliant hydropower station launched in Loikaw Township

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—The self-reliant small-scale hydropower station was launched in Dawtahay Village of Hisekha Village-tract in Loikaw Township on 12 May morning.

The power station was built at a cost of over K 18.9 million contributed by local people and power lines and some parts provided by Electricity Supply Enterprise.

The power station can supply 15 megawatts to 105 houses.—MNA

Significant Day Temperatures (16-5-2012)

Chauk	(46°C)
Minbu	(46°C)
Kalewa	(44°C)
Monywa	(44°C)
Myingyan	(44°C)
NyaungU	(44°C)
Magway	(44°C)

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—At the invitation of Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin paid a goodwill visit to the Republic of Singapore on 14 and 15 May 2012.

During the visit, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin and party called on Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore at his office at 4 pm on 14 May. They had discussed matters relating to the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

At 9 pm, the Union Minister and party observed Meet-the-People Session (MPS) of Dr Lim Wee Kiak, member of Parliament of Nee Soon Group Representation constituency of Singapore. MPS is the name of feedback system developed in Singapore for citizens to meet

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs back from Singapore



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin meets Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong.—MNA

their Member of Parliament as an opportunity to resolve problems that they have.

At 9.45 am yesterday, the Union Minister and party visited the Singapore Civil Service College. At the

college, the Assistant CEO briefed the role of Civil Service College and training framework.

At 11.30 am, the Union Minister accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to

Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin and party called on Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore, at his office. During the meeting, they exchanged views on (See page 8)

Third liaison office of KNU opened in Phayathonzu



PAGE 10

Sugar can make you dumb, US scientists warn



Eating too much sugar can eat away at your brainpower, according to US scientists.

PAGE 5

Djokovic returns to form with Tomic win in Rome



PAGE 14