True patriotism

- It is very important for everyone 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.

### Four political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- Strengthening of national solidarity
- Building and strengthening discipline-flourishing democracy system
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the Constitution

### Four economic objectives

- Building of modern industrialized nation through the agricultural development, and all-round development of other sectors of the economy
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investment from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

### Four social objectives

- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Flourishing of Union Spirit, the true patriotism
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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### Nay Pyi Taw’s Maha Thingyan

**lively with Thingyan activities**

*Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April*— Today is Maha Thingyan Akya Day for 1372 Myanmar Era. Many revellers participated in Maha Thingyan Festival merrily in and around Nay Pyi Taw today.

Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal was staged with Yein troupes of the ministries in daytime and with dances and songs presented by film stars and vocalists. Similarly, performances of Thingyan troupes at Thingyan pandals in Hotel Zone along Yazathingaha Road attracted an endless stream of people.

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**Water throwing pandals in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone being packed with revellers on Maha Thingyan Akya Day.**—MNA

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**Diplomats enjoy themselves at Nay Pyi Taw Thingyan**

*Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April*— Ambassadors, military attaches and staff members of foreign embassies to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and their families, led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife Daw Lin Lin Tin, took part in Thingyan Festival at the pandals of the hotels in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone and at Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal here today.

Foreign guests enjoyed Thingyan dances and songs at Amara Hotel, Tawwin Kumudra Hotel, Shwe Myanmar Hotel, Shwe Ethe Hotel and Myat Tawwin Hotel and participated in Thingyan Festival.

On arrival at Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal, they enjoyed Thingyan dances and songs presented by troupes from Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and ministries, and film stars and vocalists. (See page 7)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Friday, 15 April, 2011

**Healthily and happily enjoy Myanmar Maha Thingyan Festival**

New Year Day falls in the month Tagu. Feeling deliriously happy, all the people participate in Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival throughout the nation. The Thingyan is the most significant and the happiest festival among the seasonal festivities all the year round.

People douse water onto each other from Thingyan Akyo Day to Atet Day. They should enjoy water throwing festival each other with loving-kindness, making other cool with water. As such, all the people can fully enjoy genuine essence and pleasantness.

All the people should take care of health and happiness to be free from danger and systematic lifestyle during the Maha Thingyan period. As Maha Thingyan Festive falls in the hot season, everybody should avoid drinking beer and liquor not to suffer from brain clot and stroke while participating in water throwing festival.

Unclean foods unknowingly served in the Thingyan period cause diarrhoea and dysentery due to virus or bacteria. Thingyan revellers should beware of unclean foods and refreshments while throwing water to each other.

Those who enjoy the Thingyan festival by automobile should take care of traffic accident and road accident. The revellers should avoid teasing to each other in abusive language not to quarrel. Especially, girls and young women are to avoid drinking liquor and beer in the festival.

Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival is happy. It is a New Year water dousing festival with the participation of all the people. All the participants are to happily and politely enjoy water throwing festival each other with loving-kindness, making other cool with water. As such, all the people can fully enjoy genuine essence and pleasantness.

As such, all the people can fully enjoy genuine essence and pleasantness.

**Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament goes on**

![A golfer participates in a Tour Gold Cup Golf Tournament-2011.](image)

MNA

**A&I Minister inspects Kodukwe dam construction project**

Yangon, 14 April — On his inspection tour of Kodukwe Dam yesterday, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing gave instructions on timely completion of project works as the dam directly greening of Bago Region and 30-mile radius of Yangon, protection and conservation of wildlife and forest in watershed area and worksite safety.

So far, 40 per cent of the dam construction project, which is being implemented on Kodukwe creek in Bago Township, have been completed.

MNA

**Qinji shows a sense of philanthropic attitude at Tahlay**

Qinji Foundation speaking words of encouragement to earthquake victims in urban wards. — DISTRICT IPRD

**Qinji Foundation providing the earthquake victims with relief supply.** — DISTRICT IPRD

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MNA

**Qinji Foundation speaking words of encouragement to earthquake victims in urban wards.** — DISTRICT IPRD

Qinji Foundation providing the earthquake victims with relief supply. — DISTRICT IPRD

Moreover, the foundation, donated K 100,000 and a tarpaulin sheet each to the 12 most hard-hit households, K 50,000 and a blanket each to the 130 second most hard-hit households and K 20,000 each to a slightly damaged household and one above-mentioned item each to all 143 households in Maankhan Monastery in Mailin (West) at Maankhan Monastery in Mailin (West). In addition, the foundation presented a seeding equipment to the central rehabilitation camp.

District IPRD

**Qinji Foundation providing the earthquake victims with relief supply.** — DISTRICT IPRD
Suicide car bomb injures three in south of Afghan capital

KABUL, 14 April—A powerful suicide car bomb rocked Musayi District, south of Afghan capital City Kabul Thursday morning injuring four people, a statement released by the Kabul Police Department said. “A suicide bomber driving an explosive-packed truck blew it up in front of the entry gate of the Musayi district administrative office building at around 7:30 am local time (0300 GMT). As a result four people including three policemen and a civilian were injured,” the statement said.

The statement said the explosive materials were planted under the windrow in the vehicle, but did not provide details about the conditions of injured men. According to the statement, the headquarters building of the district administration and several cars parked around were also badly damaged in the blast. The statement also added that investigation has been initiated into the incident that took place in Musayi, one of 14 Districts of Kabul Province.

“A very powerful blast woke me up this morning at around 7:40 ( 0310 GMT) and I saw a big smoke in the southern part of Kabul,” Safa Mohammad, a resident of Gul Bagh area in south of Kabul who heard the blast several kilometres away from the spot told Xinhua.

Two US drone attacks kill six in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 14 April—At least six people were killed Wednesday in two US drone strikes targeting the northwestern Pakistani tribal area of South Waziristan, official sources said.

In the first attack, a US pilotless spy aircraft fired three missiles at a house in Angoor Adda village of South Waziristan, shortly followed by a second assault in which four missiles were set off at a vehicle and a motorcycle.

It was the first drone strike in April launched by US secret operatives which they claimed to target suspected militants’ hideouts in northwest Pakistan’s lawless tribal belt along the border with Afghanistan. But the identities of the victims are not to be confirmed yet.

The latest attacks came at a time when Pakistan’s intelligence head is visiting Washington and holding talks with the CIA chief on a proposal to cut the number of the American secret agents in Pakistan.

Suicide blast injures one civilian in Afghan Kandahar Province

KABUL, 14 April—Afghan police shot a suicide bomber Thursday morning, triggering a blast that injured a civilian in country’s Kandahar Province, some 450 km south of capital city of Kabul, according to a statement issued by Interior Ministry.

“Police intercepted a suicide bomber who strapped explosive in his body and intended to target a police District office inprecinct second of Kandahar City this morning,” the statement said.

According to the statement, the bomber was killed in the incident occurred at around 09:00 am local time in the Kandahar City, the provincial capital of Kandahar Province.
2,000-year-old nails ‘may be tied to crucifixion’

JERUSALEM, 14 April—Two Roman nails dating back 2,000 years, found in the burial cave of the Jewish high priest who handed Jesus over to the Romans, may be linked to the crucifixion, an Israeli filmmaker has claimed.

The gnarled bits of iron, which measure around three inches (eight centimetres) each, were shown to reporters in Jerusalem on Tuesday at the premier of a television documentary series examining the question of whether they could have been the nails used to crucify Jesus.

The series is to air from Wednesday in the United States, Canada and South America, and in Israel from 15 May.

Textiles in cave said oldest in S America

Erat, 14 April—Textiles and rope fragments found in a Peruvian cave are the oldest textiles ever found in South America, dating to 12,000 years ago, researchers say. Carbon dating of the items, found 30 years ago in Guitarrero Cave in the Andes Mountains, settled decades of debate about their age, an article in the journal *Current Anthropology* reported Wednesday.

Other artifacts found with the textiles had been dated to 12,000 years ago and even older but the textiles themselves had never been dated, research leader Edward Jolie, an archaeologist at Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania, said.

The cave has experienced frequent human and geological disturbances, so it was possible the textiles could have belonged to much more recent inhabitants, Jolie said.—INTERNET

New material could stop ash damage to jets

COLUMBUS, 14 April—US researchers say a new class of ceramic coatings could offer jet engines protection against damage from ash shot into the air by volcanoes.

The world’s attention was drawn to the possible problem by last year’s shutdown of European airspace following the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland.

Now materials scientists at Ohio State University say they’ve tested two formulations developed from coatings originally developed to keep airborne sand from damaging jet engines and found they also resisted damage by ash deposits.

“Of course, it’s best for jets to avoid ash in the first place,” engineering Professor Nitin Padture said. “That’s not always possible. We determined that these coatings could offer sufficient protection against small amounts of ash ingested by the engine over time.”

Both new coatings are more expensive than existing ones, but the researchers think the benefits outweigh the cost, an OSU release said Wednesday.

“This study’s not going to solve all the problems of ash clouds and jet engines, but we are making progress, and we’ve learned a lot about the physics of the situation,” Padture said.

And they learned something else, he said.

New dinosaur species fossil may fill gap in evolution

BEIJING, 14 April—The discovery of a sharp-toothed dinosaur fossil in New Mexico, the United States, may bridge a gap in the evolution of the species, researchers said in Wednesday’s journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B.*

Researchers from the Smithsonian Institution unearthed the dinosaur skull and neck vertebrae in Abiquiu, New Mexico, where it had remained buried for around 230 million years.

The short snout and slanting front teeth of the find —*Daemonosaurus* chauluiods — had never before been seen in a Triassic era dinosaur, said Hans-Dieter Sues of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History.

Sues, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the museum, said the discovery helps fill the evolutionary gap between the dinosaurs that lived in what is now Argentina and Brazil about 230 million years ago and the later theropods like the famous Tyrannosaurus rex.

“Various features of the skull and neck in *Daemonosaurus* indicate that it was intermediate between the earliest known predatory dinosaurs from South America and more advanced theropod dinosaurs,” said Sues.—Xinhua

Microsoft explains phone software update delay

SEATTLE, 14 April—Microsoft Corp explained the delay in updating its new phone software on Wednesday, partly blaming handset manufacturers for the problem.

Windows Phone 7, launched last October as Microsoft’s attempt to catch up with Apple Inc and Google Inc in the smartphone market, was well received, but criticized for lack of some basic functions such as cut and paste.

Microsoft initially said an update to the software would be available early in 2011, but it has not yet been implemented for many users.

“The had expected it to be earlier than now,” Joe Belfiore, head of Microsoft’s Windows phone programme, said at a software developer conference in Las Vegas on Wednesday.—Reuters

US Internet ad revenue hit record in 2010

NEW YORK, 14 April—Internet advertising revenue hit a record $26 billion in 2010, boosted by the popularity of online videos and social media.

A PricewaterhouseCoopers report commissioned by the Interactive Advertising Bureau found that last year’s ad revenue grew 15 percent from 2009.

The previous record was in 2008, when full-year revenue hit $23.4 billion.

The report, released Wednesday, said fourth-quarter advertising revenue also hit a record, at $7.4 billion. That’s up 19 percent from the fourth quarter of 2009. The previous record was in the third quarter of 2010, at $6.5 billion.

The most popular ad format was search, which represented 46 percent, or $12 billion, of the year’s total revenue.

Display-related ads accounted for 38 percent, or $9.9 billion, of 2010 ad revenue. That category includes banner ads, digital video ads and sponsorships.

The third-largest Internet ad category is classifieds, which accounted for $2.6 billion, or 10 percent of 2010 revenue.—INTERNET

New material could stop ash damage to jets

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The world’s attention was drawn to the possible problem by last year’s shutdown of European airspace following the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland.

Now materials scientists at Ohio State University say they’ve tested two formulations developed from coatings originally developed to keep airborne sand from damaging jet engines and found they also resisted damage by ash deposits.

“Of course, it’s best for jets to avoid ash in the first place,” engineering Professor Nitin Padture said. “That’s not always possible. We determined that these coatings could offer sufficient protection against small amounts of ash ingested by the engine over time.”

Both new coatings are more expensive than existing ones, but the researchers think the benefits outweigh the cost, an OSU release said Wednesday.

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Customers look over Apple products at the company’s retail store in San Francisco, California 22 April, 2009.—INTERNET

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Brain shrinks 10 years before dementia onset

A doctor examines a scan of the brain of a patient. People with Alzheimer’s disease may start experiencing shrinking of parts of the brain as many as 10 years before the degenerative condition is diagnosed, a US study suggested on Wednesday. Internet

WASHINGTON, 14 April—People with Alzheimer’s disease may start experiencing shrinking of parts of the brain as many as 10 years before the degenerative condition is diagnosed, a US study suggested on Wednesday.

While the results are still preliminary, scientists said the findings could one day provide a way to identify by MRI scan which individuals are most likely to develop the disease, which can run in families and has no cure.

US researchers followed two separate groups of people who had no signs of Alzheimer’s — one group of 33 was tracked for 11 years and another group of 33 was followed for eight years.

Magnetic resonance imaging scans were performed regularly and focused on parts of the brain where Alzheimer’s is typically found, such as the language and memory centres. Internet

2.6 million stillbirths each year - Lancet

PARIS, 14 April—Around 2.6 million stillbirths occur each year, inflicting a devastating toll on couples that can often be averted with good medical care, The Lancet said on Thursday. Ninety-eight per cent of the 7,000 stillbirths that occur each day happen in developing countries, it said in a series of papers. The true tally may be even greater because this estimate is based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) definition, according to which a baby is stillborn, as opposed to miscarried, after 28 weeks of gestation.

But most rich countries count stillbirths at around 22 weeks’ gestation. If this definition were used, “the total number of global stillbirths would be about 45 percent higher,” The Lancet said. Internet

2.6 million stillbirths each year - Lancet

NEW YORK, 14 April—In a study involving bariatric surgery patients, US researchers found weight loss helped improve memory and concentration.

Principal investigator John Gunstad, an associate professor in Kent State University, and a team of researchers studied 150 participants — 109 bariatric surgery patients and 41 obese control subjects — at Cornell Medical College and Weill Columbia University Medical Centre, both in New York, and the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute in Fargo, ND. The researchers said 12 weeks after surgery they discovered bariatric surgery patients demonstrated improved memory and concentration from the slightly impaired range to the normal range.

“The primary motivation for looking at surgery patients is that we know they lose a lot of weight in a short amount of time, so it was a good group to study,” Gunstad said in a statement. “This is the first evidence to show that by going through this surgery, individuals might improve their memory, concentration and problem solving.” Internet

Glencore aims for $11 billion IPO

HONG KONG, 14 April—Swiss commodities giant Glencore plans to raise up to $11 billion from listings in London and Hong Kong, in what is set to be the biggest initial public offering this year, a report said Thursday.

The group is expected to sell 2.5-10 percent of the offering to Hong Kong retail investors, Dow Jones Newswires said, quoting a term sheet. The report said Glencore, the world’s largest commodities trader by revenue, will set an indicative price range for the shares around 4 May.

The company will use around $5 billion of the proceeds for capital expenditure over the next three years and around $2.2 billion to increase its stake in Kazakh mining firm Kazzinc Ltd and reducing debt, Dow Jones said.

Glencore has said it was planning to float shares in a dual listing, with a primary listing on the London stock exchange and a secondary listing on the Hong Kong bourse. It is expected to announce details later Thursday.

The IPO is set to be the world’s largest this year, doubling the $5.5 billion offering in Singapore of Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing’s Hutchison Port Holdings Trust last month. Glencore deals with commodities including metals and minerals, energy and agricultural products. The group is involved in all stages of the supply chain — from extraction to refining and supplying.

The firm posted a 40.7 percent jump in 2010 net profit to $3.8 billion, reflecting strong demand for metals and minerals.

Singapore tightens monetary policy on solid growth

SINGAPORE, 14 April— Singapore on Thursday announced a tightening of monetary policy in a bid to keep a lid on inflation as data showed the economy grew an annual 8.5 percent in the first quarter. The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the central bank, said in a statement it would “re-centre the exchange rate policy band upwards” with economic growth seen staying solid in the coming months.

“This policy will ensure price stability in the medium term while keeping growth on a sustainable path,” the MAS said in its twice-yearly policy statement. Singapore conducts monetary policy via the local dollar which is traded against a basket of currencies of its major trading partners within an undisclosed band.

Economists said the upward re-centering of the policy band known as the Nominal Effective Exchange Rate essentially meant an appreciation in the Singapore dollar.

A stronger local currency will mitigate the cost of imports as Singapore, a small but affluent city-state, buys virtually all of its food and other needs from abroad. Internet

Obama proposes $4 trillion in deficit cuts

WASHINGTON, 14 April—US President Barack Obama has unveiled a $4 trillion deficit reduction drive and savaged Republican plans that he said would reward the rich and fracture America’s social compact.

Obama laid out his vision in a speech at George Washington University, aiming to prepare the ground for short-term budget fights and define his stand on an issue crucial to the US economy and his 2012 reelection chances.

He proposed cutting deficit drive with tax increases for affluent Americans. But he warned he would not allow investments in education, broadband and clean energy to be starved. Internet

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Belarusian subway bombing suspects confess

MINSK, 14 April—Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said Wednesday that two suspects have confessed in the rush-hour bombing in the metro system in the capital.

Lukashenko said in a televised statement the suspects confessed to the Monday bombing in Minsk that killed 12 people and wounded more than 200 others.—Xinhua

More US air controllers fall asleep on the job

WASHINGTON, 14 April—Two more air traffic controllers were suspended this week for sleeping on the job, including one in Nevada on Wednesday while a medical flight was trying to land, officials said.

The latest incident in Reno, Nevada, and one on Monday at Boeing Field in Seattle added to safety concerns prompted by two other controllers found to have slept at work in recent months in Washington, DC, and Tennessee.

“We absolutely cannot and will not tolerate sleeping on the job,” FAA Administrator Randy Washington, DC, and Tennessee.

Sleeping controllers have raised questions about adequate oversight staffing at air traffic towers, some of which operate with only one person handling a light load of flights.

The Federal Aviation Administration said in response to Wednesday’s incident at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport that it would add controllers at 27 towers.

The Nevada controller working alone fell asleep and was out of communication for 16 minutes while a medical flight carrying a patient was trying to land at about 2 am on Wednesday, officials said.

The pilot was in contact with another FAA facility to land at about 2 am on Wednesday, officials said.

The two controllers who fell asleep were added to a list of 10 others.

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A staff member shows a home night light during the 2011 Hong Kong Electronics Fair in Hong Kong, south China, on 13 April, 2011. The four-day fair, as Asia’s biggest electronics event, kicked off here Wednesday, attracting a total of 2,450 enterprises.—Xinhua

Envelope with unknown powder found at US consulate in Rio de Janeiro

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 April—An envelope with unidentified powder was found on Wednesday at the US consulate building in Rio de Janeiro.

The consulate staff called the municipal fire brigade, which retrieved the envelope and sent the contents to the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), world-renowned for its health research.

The powder in the envelope will be tested and the results will be known in a few days.

The consulate said there was no reason to believe the contents of the envelope were dangerous and that it followed the proper procedure by calling the authorities.

“The consulate has no indication that the envelope contains any harmful substances, but, as a precaution, the item was sent to the authorities for evaluations and tests,” the consulate said in a statement.

Such precautions are taken due to the possibility of the powder being Anthrax, which is highly dangerous and potentially lethal. In 2001, Anthrax powder was sent by mail to several media companies and politicians in the United States, causing five deaths.

Sudanese military training helicopter burns, one crew member dead

KHARTOUM, 14 April—The Sudanese army said Wednesday a training helicopter, belonging to the Sudanese Air force, burnt while taking off from a military airport, resulting in the death of a crew member, reported official SUNA news agency.

The agency quoted Al-Sawarmy Khalid Saad, spokesman of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) as saying that “the Mi24 aircraft was trying to take off from the military airport when one of its engines caught fire, then it deviated from the runway and burned. One of the aircraft’s three-member crew died in the incident.” —Xinhua

Five killed, four injured in police operation in Rio de Janeiro shantytown

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 April—Five men were killed in a police operation against drug traffickers in a shantytown in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday.

According to police, all the killed, including a minor, were drug dealers. Four people were injured during the operation and were taken to hospital.

The police took over the Manguinhos and Mandela shantytowns on Wednesday morning, and got into a shooting with a group of drug dealers.

During the operation, the policemen managed to seize three pistols, two hand grenades, 23 stolen motorbikes, and 10 slot machines, which are forbidden in Brazil.

In an operation in another shantytown, Morro do Urubu, a drug dealer identified only as Fefo was injured and arrested. He is reportedly the head of drug dealing operations in the town.—Xinhua

Envelope with unknown powder found at US consulate in Rio de Janeiro

62 passengers hurt after bus fell of ravine in N Philippines

MANILA, 14 April—Sixty-two passengers were injured when a private bus fell into a ravine in Northern Philippines early Wednesday morning, local media ABS-CBN News reported.

The vehicle was on its way to Olongapo City when the driver lost control of the bus after its brakes malfunctioned, the report said.

The injured passengers, who were identified to be employees of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, were brought to the James Gordon Memorial Hospital for treatment, ABS-CBN News said.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 13 April, 2011 shows BRICS summit signs set up along roads in Sanya City, south China’s Hainan Province. The BRICS summit is to be held here Thursday, under the theme of “Bhod Vision, Shared Prosperity”.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 13 April , 2011 shows sets for mate tea during an exhibition of mate tea at Museo de Arte Popular Jose Hernandez (Jose Hernandez: Folk Art Museum) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Mate tea is a type of herbal tea which is very popular in Argentina. Argentina is the largest producer of mate tea in the world. —Xinhua

Textual content extracted for the document: "Chinese President Hu Jintao chairs the BRICS Leaders Meeting in Sanya City, south China’s Hainan Province, on 14 April, 2011.—Xinhua"
Diplomats enjoy themselves...

(from page 1)
The guests took part in the dance to the accompaniment of Thingyan song “Mya Nandar” together with troupes and artistes. The mayor and wife hosted a luncheon to the guests at City Hall. MNA

Maha Thingyan Festival kicks off in Taninthayi Region

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April — The opening of Taninthayi Region Central Pandal for Maha Thingyan Festival took place at the pandal near Town Hall in Dawei yesterday (Akyo Day).

Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Khin Zaw extended greetings and doused water.

Next, Thingyan Yein troupes entertained those present with dances and vocalists sang songs accompanied by Blue Sky Music Band. The pandal was packed with local people.

Maha Thingyan festival of Taninthayi Region continued today (Akyo Day) at the pandal, attended by the Chief Minister and wife, Hluttaw Speaker of Taninthayi Region U Htin Aung Kyaw and guests. Dawei traditional Yein troupe, Blue Sky Music Band and Kayin traditional Yein troupe entertained local people with songs and dances.

The Chief Minister and party visited pandals of Dawei station, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Transport and also took part in Thingyan activities.

Opening ceremony of Ayeyawady Region Maha Thingyan Pandal in progress.—MNA

District News in Brief

Kyaiklat facilitated with No. 2 water pumping station

KYAIKLAT, 1 April—No. 2 Water Pumping Station on 22 March came into operation in Kyaiklat with contribution of Township Development Affairs Committee.

The water pump is supplying potable water to local people of Ward 2 and Ward 3 of Kyaiklat.

Traffic knowledge disseminated

TOUNGOO, 1 April—Road Transport of Toungoo District organized educative talks at University of Computer Studies on 14 March. Officials gave talks on traffic rules and fire preventive measures to faculty members and students of the university.—Myanma Alin

Health care services discussed

BAGO, 1 April—A meeting on research plan on reproductive health care services, infectious diseases through sexual organs and health care for prevention against infection at reproductive tracts took place at Bago General Hospital on 25 March. Officials participated in discussions on reproductive health care services, infectious diseases through sexual organs.—District IPRD

Mohnyin gets rural bridge

MOHNYIN, 1 April—A ceremony to commission a bridge across the creek was held at the entrance to Pinlon Village of Mohnyin Township on 20 March. The bridge can withstand four-ton loads and it is 230 feet long and 12 feet wide with 16 feet clearance.—Township DAC

Retaining walls under construction to prevent bank erosion

NYAUNGDON, 1 April—Flood preventive measures and bank erosion are being undertaken in Nyangdon.

On 20 March, township officials inspected systematic construction of rock-filled retaining walls along the embankment in Nyangon and called on the local people to participate in maintenance of the embankment.—Myanma Alin

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife, Ambassadors, Military Attachés and staff and their wives from foreign missions in Myanmar enjoy Thingyan dances and songs at Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Pandal.—MNA
Nay Pyi Taw’s Maha Thingyan...
(from page 1)
Amara Hotel served merry makers and revellers with Myanmar Traditional foods. People could enjoy themselves Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden, National Herbal Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, Safari Park and National Landmark Park today (Maha Thingyan Akya Day).—MNA

Pandals along Nay Pyi Taw Yaza Thingaha Road in Hotel Zone crammed with revellers.
MNA

Thingyan Festival begins in Kyaukse
NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan Festival kicked off in Kyaukse yesterday, with a ceremony to open a central pandal for the festival.
At the opening ceremony, Yein troupes and guests sang together “Mya-nan-dar” song and doused scented water on each other.
During the four-day celebrations, dance troupes will compete at the central pandal.
MNA

Stake driven for hospital in Tahlay
YANGON, 14 April — Construction of a hospital have been planned in Tahlay as People’s Hospital was damaged by the quake. Shan State Minister for Transport and Communications U Tu Maung and officials drove stakes at the designated places yesterday.
MNA

Repaved Kyauktan Road opened
THATON, 14 April—Kyauktan Road was commissioned in Pawdawmu Village of Thaton Township on 21 March.
An official explained repaving the road with asphalt.
The road is 4150 feet long and 12 feet wide.

All this needs to be known
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed
Functions of river water pumping stations inspected

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 April**—A total of 780 acres of land of 1000 acres have been put under summer paddy with the use of irrigated water from Hsintat river water pumping station in Sagaing Township and 413 acres of 750 under summer paddy with the use of water from Pyawywa river water pumping station in Myinnmu Township.

Chief Minister U Tha Aye of Sagaing Region on 12 April inspected supply of water for agricultural purpose. He viewed model summer paddy plot of farmer U Wa Aung in Thakhuttaw East Field in Kyaukse Village-tract in Sagaing Township and ploughing for cultivation of summer in ThayahinhOh field in Muwa Village-tract in Myinnmu Township.

After attending to the needs of local farmers, Chief Minister U Tha Aye and Minister for Agriculture U Sein Win of the region met region agricultural coordination committee at the hall of Arid Zone Greening Department.

Chief Minister enjoys Mandalay Region Maha Thingyan Festival

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 April**—On Thingyan Akya Day today, Thingyan pandals along the moat of Mandalay were packed with revellers and people in preserving the culture of Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan festival.

In the morning, Chief Minister U Ye Myint of Mandalay Region and wife Daw Myat Ngwe, Mandalay Mayor Minister for Development Affairs U Phone Zaw Han and wife Daw Moe Thida, ministers of the region and officials visited Thingyan pandals where movie stars and vocalists performed entertainment to the accompaniment of music bands.

In the evening, the Mayor’s Pandal assessed the presentations of the decorated floats. The mayor and party enjoyed dance and songs presented by artistes and belles at the pandal.—MNA

On Thingyan Akya Day (the second day), pandals in Mandalay lively with Thingyan activities.—MNA

Chief Minister of Rakhine State participates in Thingyan Festival

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 April**—Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin and wife Daw Nu Nu Zan together with ministers of Rakhine State honoured traditional dance troupes on their visit pandals for Thingyan Water Festival today.

They also splashed water on revellers and invited guests at the pandals.—MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister attends opening of Maha Thingyan Festival

**YANGON, 14 April**—Bago Region marked World Health Day (2011) at City Hall in Bago this morning.

Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win Nyaunglebin townships.

At 4 pm yesterday, the chief minister formally opened Shwe Maw Daw Pagoda Festival in Bago. And he addressed the opening of enjoyed Thingyan dances and songs presented by contestant troupes and members of the Myanmar Music Association and the Motion Picture Association.

**Opening of Maha Thingyan Central Pandal of Bago Region in progress.**—MNA

He also formally opened the pandal of Bago Region Communications.

Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin dousing Yein troupes with scented water.—MNA

Cooperatives Minister takes part...

**Nay Pyi Taw Council Members who today visited Nay Pyi Taw**

Pandals teeming with revellers...

**Myitta Mon Housing Estate in Tamway Township, Shwe Keinnayi pandal on Kyaikkasan Road, and Shwe Natha pandal on Lanthit Road in Insein Township.**

In like manner, Thingyan dances and songs were presented in daytime and non-dramatic performances in the evening at Yangon Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal today.

Vocalists presented songs with the accompaniment of music bands to entertain revellers at Sky Net and Shwe FM Radio Family pandal of Shwe Than Lwin Co in Latha Township, Royal Rose Family pandal on Shwegondaing Road in Bahan Township, and Fushin Brothers Co pandal in front of Bogysoke Aung San Market.

Similarly, urban wards were lively with Thingyan activities.

**Thingyan Akyaa Day sees Thingyan troupes entertaining with dances and songs at Sky Net and Shwe FM Radio Family Thingyan pandal.**—MNA

Chief Minister enjoys Mandalay Region Maha Thingyan Festival

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**On Thingyan Akya Day (the second day), pandals in Mandalay lively with Thingyan activities.**—MNA
Mexico, India seek further inter-parliamentary relations

MEXICO CITY, 14 April—Mexico wants to strengthen and consolidate bilateral relations with India through their parliaments. President of the Mexican Senate Manlio Fabio Beltrones said on Tuesday.

During an official visit by President of India’s lower house of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Meira Kumar, Beltrones said India has a great field of opportunities for such development. Mexico is geographically near the United States and Canada and its status as member of the North American Free Trade Agreement makes it an important partner for foreign investment, Beltrones said. He said the brotherhood relations with India have allowed for a consolidation of the democratic institutions between both countries and one of Mexico’s main goals is to achieve the interrelation “with our friend countries through its foreign policy principles,” he said.

Kumar said she believes her visit to Mexico will help promote cooperation between both countries.

Stressing Mexico is important for India, Kumar said she hopes the two countries will be able to continue to strengthen and improve bilateral ties.

Over the last 60 years, the friendship between the people of both countries has grown and the cooperation is the path toward relations “at a higher level,” she added.——Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor annouces more scholarships for Americans to study in China

WASHINGTON, 14 April—Visiting Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong announced here on Tuesday an additional 10,000 scholarships for Americans to study in China. The announcement was made during the second meeting of the China-US high-level consultation on people-to-people exchange held in Washington.

The new scholarships are made in addition to the pledge by the Chinese government last year of 10,000 “Bridge Scholarships” for American students to study in China. Realizing the strategic importance of the US-China relationship, the US government has called for more Americans to study in China.

In November 2009, during his visit to China, US President Barack Obama announced the “100,000 Strong” initiative, a national effort designed to increase dramatically the number of American students studying in China.——Xinhua

Four provinces in Thailand still flooded, 47 hit by drought

BANGKOK, 14 April—Parts of four provinces in the Thai south are still flooded whilst another 47 provinces mainly in the north and northeastern are affected by drought, the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department reported on Tuesday.

The four provinces which are still flooded are Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phattalung, Surat Thani and Trang while restoration work has begun in six other flood-hit provinces.

The six provinces where repair gangs are working are Phangnga, Narathiwat, Satun, Chumphon, Songkhla and Krabi.

The flood death toll has reached 61 since flood hit 11 southern provinces early this month. The floods destroyed 535 houses and damaged 10,574 others. All roads and railways to the south are now usable, as well as all airports in the region.

The department also announced Tuesday 29,963 villages in 2,961 districts of 47 provinces in northern, northeastern, eastern and central regions as drought-hit areas.——Xinhua

Indian Prime Minister Mmamohann Singh (C front) is greeted at the airport in Sanya, south China’s Hainan Province, on 12 April, 2011. Mamnoon Singh arrived Tuesday evening in Sanya to attend the BRICS Leaders Meeting scheduled on Thursday.——Xinhua

Havana affected by growing water shortage

HAVANA, 14 April—The water supply to Cuban capital Havana and the province around it faces the most critical level in the last 50 years, which could worsen if it does not rain in May and June, the National Institute of Water Resources (INRH) said in a report on Tuesday.

Jorge Kalaf, an official in charge of development and investments at the INRH, said March was more dry than usual and had a deficit on rain water rainfall accumulation, which is considered moderate to severe in regions of Cuba, according to the report published in the official daily “Granma.”

Kalaf said that the drought reached “extreme levels” in the Havana province, where there are barely 12 millimeters registered. This represents just 20 percent of the historical levels for March. He added the city of Havana has a deficit of 519,307 cubic meters of water per day at the moment, affecting more than 1 million people, of whom only 106,000 have water tanks.

The ageing of the aqueduct also affects the water supply, as 70 percent of its pipelines are in bad state.——Xinhua

Forest fire breaks out in north China

SHEZHUANG, 14 April—A forest fire broke out Tuesday noon in north China’s Hebei Province, with over 7,000 mu (466.66 hectares) of forest burnt as of Wednesday noon, local authorities said.

The fire broke out at the border area of Qinhuangdao City’s Funing County and Qinglong County, said a spokesman with Funing County government.

More than 7,550 police, soldiers, officials and fire fighters had been mobilized to battle the blaze. Three helicopters were also used to dump water on the fire. Relocation of nearby villagers is underway.—Xinhua

TEPCO head apologizes for nuke emergency at troubled Fukushima plant

TOKYO, 14 April—The President of Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), owner of the crippled Fukushima No 1 nuclear power plant in Japan, apologized at a news conference Wednesday for the nuclear emergency which is still unfolding at the facility.——Xinhua
Quake, Tsunami loss estimated up to $34 bln

BEIJING, 14 April— The March 11th Japan earthquake and tsunami are likely to have caused up to 34 billion US dollars in losses for the global insurance industry. That’s according to catastrophe modeling company RMS. The company’s estimate includes 18 to 26 billion dollars in property insurance losses, plus 3 to 8 billion dollars in losses to the life and health insurance sectors.

At the higher end of the estimates, the quake would go down as the most expensive of its kind for the insurance industry in a generation. And it’s already having at least some effect on insurance pricing around the world.

Temperature, radiation levels increase at Fukushima nuclear plant

BEIJING, 14 April— Temperature and radiation levels at the Fukushima nuclear power plant have increased. That’s according to TEPCO’s latest update.

Water temperature in the fuel pool at reactor number four has reached 90 degree celsius. While radiation near the reactor has gone up to 84 micro sievert - 100,000 times the normal level.

TEPCO says the pool’s water level is full and the fuel rods have not been exposed. The sudden increase could be caused either by possible damage to fuel rods or a leak in the pressure vessel.

Ford slashes jobs in Australia, Toyota scales back

SYDNEY, 14 April— Car giant Ford said Thursday it will shed 240 jobs in Australia and cut daily production by 20 percent, while Toyota scaled back work hours due to supply problems after Japan’s quake-tsunami.

Ford said the decision was made after a slump in demand for large cars, such as the Falcon and Territory, with plans to redeploy workers at its Geelong and Broadmeadows plants in Victoria state “wherever possible”.

Voluntary redundancy packages would be offered where alternative roles were not an option.

“We believe the actions we’re taking now will stabilise our (vehicle) volumes going forward,” Ford Australia president Bob Graziano told reporters.

He said 240 jobs would be cut from July, bringing the company’s manufacturing workforce down from 1,800 employees to 1,560, and its total staff from 3,400 to 3,160.

Production would be cut from 260 to 290 cars a day.—Internet

Daisy farmer Mutsuo Mito throws away milk freshly taken from his cows in his field, located about 50 km from the tsunami-crippled nuclear reactor, in Shinchimachi, Fukushima Prefecture, northern Japan, on 13 April, 2011. Mito’s farm has been thrown away away about 1,200 litres of fresh milk daily and he has submitted milk samples to the government twice already, but have yet to receive a response as to whether they will be allowed to sell their milk since shipments of unprocessed milk from dairies in Fukushima were halted last month.

China’s largest rocket, satellite launch base plans tourism boost

LANZHOU, 14 April— China’s first and largest rocket and satellite launch base, the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, aims to boost tourism over the next five years, an official with the local tourism bureau said Wednesday.

The city in northwestern China’s Gansu Province plans to boost tourism by building major tourist attractions emphasizing regional culture, aerospace technology and wind power, according to the city’s five-year tourism development plan for 2011 to 2015.

The Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, established in 1958, just 210 km from downtown Jiuquan in the desert of Gansu Province, is the nation’s only manned spacecraft launch centre since Shenzhou-5 blasted off in October 2003. The city’s plans include offering new attractions and opening up new spaces to the public, including parts of Dongfeng Park within the city’s centre.

An aerospace-themed cultural town and more interactive aerospace experience programmes and facilities will be constructed to attract vacationers.

Additionally, a wind power museum will be built near China’s first million kilowatt wind power station in Jiuquan.

6.5-magnitude quake hits off east coast of Honshu, Japan

BEIJING, 14 April— An earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale hit off the east coast of Honshu of Japan at 3:57 am. Beijing Time 14 April, 2011. Danchia, which means “rosy cloud,” is a special landform formed from reddish sandstone that has been eroded over time into a series of mountains surrounded by curvaceous cliffs and many unusual rock formations.

Trace amounts of radioactive materials detected in more Chinese vegetables

BEIJING, 14 April— China’s Ministry of Health said Wednesday that “extremely low levels” of radioactive isotope iodine-131 had been detected in various kinds of vegetables in 12 provincial regions. The radioactive isotope was found in spinach, asparagus, lettuce, cabbage, Chinese cabbage and other vegetables in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shandong, Henan, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan, according to a statement from the ministry.

“The detected amounts pose no threat to public health,” said the statement, adding that a sample survey indicated no abnormality in drinking water.

Also on Wednesday, the country’s National Nuclear Emergency Coordination Committee said in its daily notice that no obvious change had been found in the levels of radioactive material in the environment in the Chinese mainland.

No protective measures need to be taken against contamination from these materials, the notice said.

World’s fastest superbus sparkles in Dubai

BEIJING, 14 April— The world’s fastest superbus has arrived in Dubai for the International Association of Public Transport’s World Exhibition.

With a top speed of 250 kilometers per hour and room for 23 passengers, the Dutch vehicle is an attempt to combine convenience with flexibility.

It is also environmentally-friendly, with a rechargeable battery. But it’s yet to go on sale.

An official in a radiation protection suit scans an evacuated girl with a geiger counter in Koriyama, about 60km west of the crisis-hit Fukushima nuclear plant. The World Health Organisation is seeking studies for up to 20 years to keep watch over public health in Japan following the Fukushima nuclear emergency, according to a senior official.

Internet

A man extinguishes a fire in the forest at the border area of Qinhuangdao City’s Fuming County and Qinglong County, north China’s Hebei Province, 13 April, 2011.—Internet

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**Superman comic stolen from Nicolas Cage is found**

LOS ANGELES, 14 April — A 1938 comic featuring Superman’s debut that has been recovered in a storage locker in the US appears to be the copy stolen from Nicolas Cage, police say. The 47-year-old actor, who accepted an insurance payout after the 2000 theft, said last week’s find, in Los Angeles, was “divine providence.”

He said he was hopeful the “heirloom”, a mint condition copy of Action Comics No 1, would be returned to his family. In March 2010, a copy of the comic, sold originally for 10 cents. —INTERNET

**Pilot allegedly caught with deadly slingshots at Frankfurt Airport**

FRANKFURT, 14 April — A Lufthansa pilot was arrested at Frankfurt Airport for carrying a deadly slingshot and ammunition on a flight out of Los Angeles.

The flight’s co-pilot, 30, was nabbed after a random search discovered the slingshot and 286 ball bearings, which are used as ammunition, in his luggage, German newspaper Bild reported.

An investigator said that the pilot had, “particularly hazardous items which are strictly prohibited under the (German) Arms Act”. The slingshot could “kill hazardous items which are strictly prohibited under the German newspaper Bild reported.

An investigator said that the pilot had, “particularly hazardous items which are strictly prohibited under the (German) Arms Act”. The slingshot could “kill” people 100 feet away,” the investigator said.

The pilot now faces up to three years in prison under German law. American authorities were outraged that the pilot had abused his position of trust, the newspaper said.

A Lufthansa spokesman confirmed the Bild report, according to the news website The Local, adding that the airline was assisting authorities with their inquiries.

**‘Molyneux’s question’ gets answered after 300 years**

Pain, 14 April — Researchers say they have solved a conundrum about human perception that has stumped philosophers and scientists alike for three centuries. Irish politician William Molyneux first posed the question in a letter to the great British thinker John Locke written 323 years ago. Imagine, Molyneux wrote, that a man blind from birth who has learned to identify objects — a sphere and a cube, for example — only through his sense of touch is suddenly able to see.

The puzzle, he continued, is: “Whether he Could, by his Sight, and before he touch them, know which is the Globe and which is the Cube?” For philosophers of the time, answering “Molyneux’s question”, as it became known, would resolve a fundamental uncertainty about the human mind. Empiricists believed that we are born blank slates, and become the sum total of our accumulated experience. —INTERNET

**Shale gas ‘worse than coal’ for climate**

NEW YORK, 14 April — The new kid on the energy block, shale gas, may be worse in climate change terms than coal, a study concludes. Drawn from rock through a controversial “fracking” process, some hail the gas as a “stepping stone” to a low-carbon future and a route to energy security. But US researchers found that shale gas wells leak substantial amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. This makes its climate impact worse than conventional gas, they say — and probably worse than coal as well. “Compared to coal, the footprint of shale gas is at least 20% greater and perhaps more than twice as great on the 20-year horizon, and is comparable over 100 years,” they write in a paper to be published shortly in the journal Climate Change. “We have produced the first comprehensive analysis of the greenhouse gas footprint of shale gas,” said lead author Robert Howarth from Cornell University in Ithaca, US. “We have used the best available data [and] the conclusion is that shale gas may indeed be quite damaging to global warming, quite likely as bad or worse than coal,” he told BBC News. —INTERNET

**Mum tells of finding dead son in a dryer**

LONDON, 14 April — A mother wept on Thursday as she told an inquest how her four-year-old son died in a tumble dryer after he set the timer himself and the door slammed shut.

Anne Gibson discovered Sonny inside the machine at the family home in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, England, on 26 July last year.

She found the toddler when she came home af- ter spending the night at a friend’s house, because she had had a few too many drinks. She broke down in tears as she described her frantic search for her “very independent” child in the morning. He had been left in the care of teenage fam- ily members and was put to bed the night before, the inquest at Derby Coroner’s Court heard.

Delivering a verdict of accidental death, Deputy Coroner Louise Pinder said: “Sonny was a very lively little boy and could, on occasion, be quite mischievous. “He loved to hide, and hide and seek was a game he was fond of.”

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (429)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (429) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.4.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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.

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (11006)**

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**MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (429)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (429) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.4.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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.
A man was arrested for creating a fake US Army unit and convincing immigrants that joining the squad was a path to citizenship, authorities said.

Yupeng Deng, 51, allegedly gave his recruits military uniforms, had them parade in a Los Angeles suburb and took them to the decommissioned USS Midway aircraft carrier, which is a museum in San Diego.

Deng charged more than 100 fellow Chinese nationals a fee of between $300 and $450 to join the fake Army unit, according to the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office.

He called his bogus squad the US Army/Military Special Forces Reserve unit, or MSFR for short, and he gave himself the lofty title of supreme commander, prosecutors said.

Aside from telling recruits that belonging to the unit was a path to US citizenship, Deng also urged them to pay him cash for higher military rank, according to prosecutors.

He also allegedly provided them with fake documents and phony military identification cards.

Deng, a resident of the Los Angeles suburb of El Monte, was arrested on Tuesday by sheriff’s deputies.

He was charged with theft by false pretenses, manufacturing deceptive government documents and counterfeit of an official government seal.

Deng faces up to eight years in prison if convicted.

German politician caught stealing toilet paper

A German politician has been caught short after juniors collared him red-handed pilfering toilet roll from the gents in the town hall during a sting operation, authorities said.

Investigators’ suspicions were raised when more than 200 rolls vanished and they laid a trap for Frank-Michael John, 24, a member of the far-left Die Linke party in the regional council of Stralsund, northern Germany.

They discovered him exiting the toilet with one roll in his hand and another in a backpack, according to several media. “We are investigating the theft of several low-value items,” Ralf Lechte, from the Stralsund prosecutors’ office, told AFP, confirming the media reports.

As the town hall bays toilet paper in bulk, the total value of the suspected theft is unlikely to amount to more than a few hundred euros (dollars), he added. “Whether charges are pressed will depend on the perpetrator and whether he has previous offenses,” Lechte added.

NH cops seek woman accused of lifting 14 lobsters

Police in Rochester, NH, would like to get their claws on a woman accused of shoplifting 14 live lobsters.

Authorities released a surveillance photo Monday that shows the woman pushing a shopping cart near the front of the Milton Road Market Basket grocery store.

Police tell the Foster’s Daily Democrat that the woman entered the store Friday afternoon and asked for a selection of lobster from the clerk in the seafood department.

Store employees say the woman received the lobsters and then left the store without paying. She left in a blue van with a partial license plate “222.”

Police Capt Paul Callaghan says the 14 lifted lobsters amounted to about 16 pounds of seafood.

Thailand tries tax breaks to lure foreign filming

BANGKOK, 14 April—Thailand isn’t feeling a hangover from its Hollywood closeup.

The host of “The Hangover Part II” is giving foreign actors a tax break to lure more movies here, earning filmmaking dollars and promoting tourism.

Deputy Finance Minister Pradit Pattaraprasit said the cabinet decided Tuesday that actors who live outside of Thailand will not be taxed on earnings from movies filmed in Thailand from this year through 2015. Thailand is expected to get massive exposure from the sequel to the blockbuster bachelor comedy “The Hangover.”

The sequel starring Bradley Cooper and Zach Galifianakis moves the action from Las Vegas to Thailand through 2015. Thailand is expected to get massive exposure from the sequel to the blockbuster bachelor comedy “The Hangover.”

Carly Simon releases CD with baseball picture book

NEW YORK, 14 April—Baseball is more than a pastime for singer Carly Simon. Her version of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” is included on a three-song CD that accompanies a new picture book of the same name.

Simon told The Associated Press on Tuesday that her family was friendly with Jackie Robinson’s family when she was a girl and that the Brooklyn Dodgers star used to bring her to games and call her his “lucky charm.”

Simon says she found the classic baseball tune, which she originally recorded for Ken Burns’ documentary “Baseball,” “pretty enchanting” and even tried to write her own baseball number about her daughter playing centerfield. “I really should finish it,” said Simon, 66, whose hits include “You’re So Vain” and “Anticipation.”

Branson to work as AirAsia stewardess after losing bet

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 April—British billionaire Richard Branson will dress and serve as a stewardess on Malaysian budget carrier AirAsia X on 1 May after losing a Grand Prix bet with the founder of the airline.

Branson, whose Virgin group sponsors the Marussia Virgin Racing team, will finally honour his bet with AirAsia founder and Team Lotus co-principal Tony Fernandes on whose team would finish a Grand Prix, the airline said.

The airline said it was selling 100 tickets for the London to Kuala Lumpur charity flight, with passengers to also be entertained onboard by street magician Dynamo and a four-piece band featuring former Grand Prix team owner Eddie Jordan.

Actor Yu Shaquan and actress Lin Vien (R) attend the press conference of the new film “A Chinese Fairy Tale” in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 April, 2011.—XINHUA

Photo shows the famous “Manneken Pis” dressed in the costume of the clothes in Brussels, capital of Belgium, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first human space flight, accomplished on 12 April, 1961 by Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

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De Gea to decide future at end of season

MADRID, 14 April — Atlético Madrid goalkeeper David de Gea, linked to a move to Manchester United, said Wednesday he will decide his future at the end of the season but it will be difficult for him to leave the Spanish side.

British media have repeatedly tipped the 20-year-old for a summer move to Old Trafford as a long-term replacement for Edwin van der Sar.

Last month De Gea’s agent Hector Rincon said he had held talks with Manchester United over the keeper, adding most major European teams have shown interest in the Spaniard. Asked about the help finance the Hammers move.

“De Gea has said that he is not planning to leave Madrid. He has been with the club since he was a child, and he wants to stay.”

“His release clause is quite high, which makes it difficult for other clubs to negotiate a transfer.”

De Gea is seen as one of the best young goalkeepers in the world and has been linked with a number of top European clubs.

The 20-year-old has made 13 appearances for Madrid this season and has been a key figure in the team’s success.

If Madrid decide to sell De Gea, they would likely demand a high fee to recoup the costs of signing him.

Real Madrid’s coach José Mourinho will be without Ryan Giggs for the semi-final second leg against Manchester United.

“Ryan Giggs is out for the game against Manchester United,” said Mourinho. “He has a muscle injury and will not be able to play.”

Mourinho has been impressed with Giggs’s performances this season and his absence will be a blow to United’s hopes of reaching the Champions League semi-finals.

Barça defender Carles Puyol will miss the second leg of the Champions League semi-final against Inter Milan due to a thigh injury.

“Carles Puyol will not play in the second leg against Inter Milan,” said Barça coach Tito Vilanova. “He has a muscle problem in his thigh and will not be able to play.”
Pottengal Mukundan said Thursday that there was a "dramatic increase in the violence and techniques" used by Somali pirates to counter increased patrols by international navies. The Kuala Lumpur-based centre's director Mohammad Saadi Shibin, a Somali man accused of acting as chief negotiator for pirates who took four Americans hostage and killed them in February, is transported from the US District Court, in Norfolk.

INTERNET

a "dramatic increase in the violence and techniques" used by Somali pirates to counter increased patrols by international navies.—Internet

WEATHER

Thursday, 14th April, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Mon and Shan States, isolated in lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Kayah States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (5°C) above average temperatures in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above average temperatures in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions. Chin State, (5°C) below average temperatures in Eastern Shan state, (3°C) below April average temperatures in Taninthayi Region and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (45°C), Magway (46°C), Monywa, Minbu and Zaungtu (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Longlonge (0.98) inch, Dawei (0.91) inch, Thaithon (0.55) inch and Loolen (0.47) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 13-4-2011 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 14-4-2011 was 75°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 14-4-2011 was (59%). Rainfall on 14-4-2011 was Nil.

Rainfall on 14-4-2011 was (Nil) at Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and Mandalay. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (6.10) inches at Nay Pyi Taw, (7.09) inches at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and (1.38) inches at Mandalay. Maximum wind speed at Nay Pyi Taw was (12) m.p.h. from Southeast at (09:30) hours MST on 14-4-2011.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and south Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 15th April 2011:

Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Mon and Kayin States, isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 15-4-2011: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-4-2011: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-4-2011: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

World sea attacks surge with more violent pirates

KUALA LUMPUR. 14 April — A global maritime watchdog says sea piracy worldwide hit a record high of 142 attacks in the first quarter this year as Somali pirates become more violent and aggressive.

The International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting centre says 97 of the attacks occurred off the coast of Somalia, up sharply from 35 in the same period last year.

It says attackers seized 18 vessels worldwide, including three big tankers, in the January-March period and captured 344 crew members. Pirates also murdered seven crew members and injured 36 during the quarter.

The Kuala Lumpur-based centre's director Pottengal Mukundan said Thursday that there was
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Cooperatives Minister takes part in Water Festival on Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Akyad

Minister for Cooperatives U Ohn Myint and party enjoying presentation of dances at Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal.—MNA

Pandals teeming with revellers in Yangon on Thingyan Akyad

Yangon, 14 April—Yangon was bustling with more Thingyan activities on Akyad Day (today) than on Akyo Day (yesterday). Only at about 3 pm, did Thingyan pandals come to life in full with merrymakers and Thingyan cars as they seemed to avoid glaring sunlight.

Packed with boisterous people enjoying themselves in Yangon today were Hnit-ku Apyaw pandal on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, the pandal of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board family in Ahlon Township, Shwe Thabye Family pandal on Bayintnaung Road in Kamayut Township, Paradise Family pandal on Pyay Road in Hline Township, Future Stars and Waso Family pandal on Yemonmar Road in Dawbon Township, Soe San Family pandal on Waizayanda Road in South Okkalapa Township, Oasis pandal in front of (See page 9)