Ma Mya Creek Bridge (1) emerges as the first of its kind in time of Government of Union of Myanmar

YANGON, 28 April—The inauguration of Ma Mya Creek Bridge (1) on Hinthada-Hsongon-Myanmaung Road in Ingapu Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, took place at the pavilion near the facility this morning.

The 190 feet long facility of RC type constructed by Bridge Group (1) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction has a 24-foot-wide motorway and two three-foot-wide pedestrian walkways. It can withstand 60 tons of loads per vehicle.

The bridge will give further impetus to the flow of local goods to other regions through the networks of transport facilities along with development in the region’s economic, social, health care and education sectors.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint in his speech said that the project launched on 1 January 2009 was implemented day in, day out by eight engineers and 73 skilled workers. It is the first above 180 feet long bridge in the time of the government of Republic of Union of Myanmar. Ayeyawady Region has seen 55 above-180-foot bridges and 34 more under construction. (See page 8)

Education services planned with participation of private sector

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—At the opening ceremony of the basic education school management refresher course No. 5/2011 at Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No.6 this morning, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye stressed the need for training the students at basic education high school level and higher education to uplift their proficiency skills in English and Mathematics and changing the way of thinking during the transitional period.

The minister noted that plan is underway to implement education services with the participation of private sector, adding that it is necessary to gear up education promotion tasks to meet the international standard.

Altogether 220 township education officers and headmasters of BEHSs are attending the course that will last to 21 May.—MNA

World Veterinary Day marked in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—To hail World Veterinary Day which falls on 30 April, Myanmar Veterinarian Association gave an educative talk on vaccination and fight against rabies at the office of the head of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department. Head of Mandalay Region department Dr Thaung Htaik extended greetings. Research Officer Dr Win Myint lectured on rabies. Moreover, about 100 dogs in Mandalay municipal area were vaccinated against rabies free of charge.—MNA

Bomb attack in Morocco tourist cafe kills 14

Mesi gives Barcelona 2-0 win over 10-man Madrid

India shortlists planes for jet deal

PAGE 3
PAGE 6
PAGE 14
Emphasize maintenance of roads and bridges

Better transport is a basic need for development of every region. Ensuring smooth transport contributes much to economic development as well as to simultaneous improvement of socio-economic life of the local people.

Although Ayeyawady Region teeming not only with rivers, creek and lakes but also with fertile soil and rich natural resources had faced poor transport in the past, transport of commodities delayed. Trips wasted time of transport by car, by train or by bateau. At present, the people have easy access to various regions thanks to already-built roads and bridges. Paddy and rice, beans and pulses, meat, fish, salt and marine products can be transported smoothly and speedily from one place to another. Infrastructures on transport sector are being upgraded in the region for having better access in the future.

On his inspection tour of bridge constructions, President U Thein Sein visited Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) construction project on 25 April. In meeting with officials, the President stressed the need to maintain the existing roads and bridges for their durability while implementing new projects, and he called for practising thrifty methods.

Not only new bridges but also new railroads are being built in Ayeyawady Region. Kyangin-Pakokku railroad and Pathein (Begarat)-Einme-Nyaungdon-Yangon (Hlinethaya) railroad are under construction as a link with existing Pathein-Kyangin railroad. The already-commissioned railroad sections are serving the interest of the people in transport sector.

Holding the concept that where there is a land and water there is a job the State has created more job opportunities. Based on these sound foundations, all the people are to make strenuous efforts for uplifting their socio-economic life. Only when everybody has sound foundations, all the people are to make created more job opportunities. Based on these sound foundations, all the people are to make created more job opportunities. Based on these sound foundations, all the people are to make.
South storm death toll climbs to 178; 128 in Ala

TUSCALOOSA, 28 April—The death toll from severe storms that punished five Southern US states jumped to a staggering 178 Thursday after Alabama canvassed its hard-hit counties for a new tally of lives lost. Alabama's state emergency management agency said it had confirmed 128 deaths, up from at least 61 earlier.

“We expect that toll, unfortunately, to rise,” Gov Robert Bentley told ABC's “Good Morning America.”

Mississippi officials reported 32 dead in that state and Tennessee raised its report to six from one. Another 11 have been killed in Georgia and one in Virginia.

The fierce storms Wednesday spawned tornadoes and winds that wiped out homes and businesses, forced a nuclear power plant to use backup generators and prompted the evacuation of a National Weather Service office.

The National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla, said it received 137 tornado reports around the region, including 66 in Alabama and 38 in Mississippi.

Car bomb kills four policemen northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 April—A police officer says a car bomb explosion has killed a police officer and three of his guards in northern Iraq.

Brig Gen Sarhad Qadir says the parked car bomb targeted Lt Col Mohammed Muhsin al-Jibouri as he drove in the northern town of Hawija.

Qadir says the slain officer was travelling in a civilian car with his three guards when the explosive-laden car detonated around 2:00 pm on Thursday.

The blast also wounded eight civilian bystanders.

Although violence has ebbed in Iraq since early 2008, insurgents are still capable of launching attacks against Iraqi security forces and government officials.

The Sunni-dominated town of Hawija, once an militant stronghold, is located about 150 miles (240 kilometres) north of Baghdad.

Afghan, Pakistan border clash kills one

DEERA ISMAIL KHAN, 28 April—Afghan border guards fired mortar shells toward a Pakistani military post in a northwestern tribal region on Wednesday, killing a soldier and wounding two others, a Pakistani government official said.

The mortars also wounded at least six local residents and damaged dozens of shops in theAngore Adda Town of the South Waziristan Region, Atifur Rehman said. “Pakistan’s army forces are also returning fire,” he said.

No Pakistan army spokesman was immediately available for comment.

Investigators work at the site of a blast at a cafe in Marrakesh in Morocco on 24 April, 2011—INTERNET

Bomb attack in Morocco tourist cafe kills 14

MARRAKESH, 28 April—A bomb killed 14 people including foreigners in Morocco's bustling tourist destination of Marrakesh, officials said on Thursday, in an attack that bore the hallmark of Islamist militants.

The blast ripped through a cafe overlooking Marrakesh's Jamaa el-Fnaa square, a spot that is often packed with foreign tourists. A Reuters photographer said he saw rescuers pulling dismembered bodies from the wreckage.

If the bombing is the work of Islamist militants, it will be the first time they have carried out a major attack in Morocco since 2003, when a series of suicide bombings in the commercial capital, Casablanca, killed more than 45 people.

Five people were sailors, while the fifth was a passer-by, said navy spokesman Salman Ali and Seem Jamali, a doctor at the city's Jinnah Hospital. Five people were wounded.

The army has launched several offensives in the northwest, but bombings against government and security force targets, as well as indiscriminate attacks on public places, have continued.

The Pakistan Taleban have little direct public support, but their identification with Islam, strong anti-American rhetoric and support for militants in Afghan-nistan resonates with some.

Pakistan paramilitary soldiers watch a damaged bus at the site of a bomb blast in Karachi, Pakistan on 26 April, 2011—INTERNET

Bomber hits Pakistan navy bus in Karachi, five dead

KARACHI, 28 April—A roadside bomb hit a bus taking Pakistani navy employees to work in Karachi on Thursday, killing five people in the third such attack this week and just days after the army chief claimed to have “broken the backbone” of militants.

The series of attacks in the country’s largest city and economic heart show the determination and reach of al-Qaeda-linked extremist networks despite American-backed Pakistani army offensives against their main bases in the northwest close to the Afghan border.

The early morning blast mangled the bus and damaged nearby buildings.

Four of the dead were sailors, while the fifth was a passer-by, said navy spokesman Salman Ali and Seem Jamali, a doctor at the city's Jinnah Hospital. Five people were wounded.

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18 people injured in 2-train collision in Spain

MADRID, 28 April—Spain’s rail authority says 18 people were slightly injured when a commuter train collided underground with an empty long-distance train in Barcelona. RENFE said two carriages of a commuter train carrying 70 passengers derailed after colliding with the other train, which was stationary. Sixteen people were treated in nearby medical centers, mostly for bruises. The accident occurred Thursday just before 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) as the commuter train began slowing down to stop in the Clot-Arago station in Barcelona city.—INTERNET

A car lies overthrown and buildings destroyed in Tuscaloosa, Ala, on 27 April, 2011. A wave of severe storms laced with tornadoes strafed the South on Wednesday; buildings across swaths of the university town were damaged or destroyed.
Russia launches cargo vessel for space station

Moscow, 28 April—An unmanned Russian cargo vessel set off Wednesday on a mission to supply the crew on board the International Space Station with a new shipment of equipment and supplies.

The M-10M Progress lifted off from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan and was due to dock to the ISS on Friday at 1429 GMT, the Russian Federal Space Agency said in a statement.

The vessel was carrying 2.6 tonnes of supplies and scientific equipment for the international crew, which includes an Italian, two NASA astronauts and three Russians.

Besides the usual shipment of oxygen and other necessities, the latest consignment also included vegetable seeds and some fruit flies that could help the team grow the first garden in space, the Russian newsru.com website reported.

The ISS, built up from the first module launched by Russia in 1998, is orbiting 350 kilometres (220 miles) from Earth.—Internet

Hundreds queue as iPad 2 hits Japan

Tokyo, 28 April—Hundreds of Apple fans in Japan queued to snap up the iPad 2 Thursday as the latest version of the popular tablet finally went on sale after a month-long delay caused by the 11 March quake and tsunami.

Customers in Tokyo waited patiently from early morning outside Apple’s main stores in downtown Ginza and the shopping district of Shibuya, many killing time by playing on or reading from their previous-generation devices.

“I was determined to get the new model as it is thinner and lighter” than the original model, Masahiko Asakura, 80, said as he came out of the Ginza store, adding that he would now give his old iPad to his parents.

“The launch was a long time coming for me,” said a 22-year-old physics student who only gave her surname as Kobayashi. “I thought the first model was a bit heavy, but the new one seems the right size for me.”

As the spring sun heated the pavement, Apple distributed bottled water and black parasols with the Apple logo to many of those queuing up to spend between 44,900 and 69,900 yen ($548-$743) on the latest gadget.

The iPad 2, which hit stores in the United States on 11 March, had been scheduled to go on sale in Japan on 25 March.

But the launch was pushed back as Japan dealt with its worst disaster since World War II, which has left more than 26,000 people dead or missing and sparked a nuclear crisis at the tsunami-hit Fukushima atomic plant.

With many consumers in a jittery or glum mood since the calamity, data released Thursday showed household spending plunged by 8.5 percent in March from a year earlier, the biggest drop since records began in 1964.—Internet

Massive study of rainfall launched

Washington, 28 April—US scientists are using aircraft to carry instruments aloft in an attempt to unlock the mystery of why some clouds produce huge amounts of rain, NASA says.

Convective clouds that form when warm, moist air rises and condenses at higher altitudes are the focus of a current scientific mission that runs through June, an agency release said.

In addition to aircraft, the mission will use comprehensive observations of rainfall in the United States by spacecraft, remote sensing and ground sensors.

The mission will be run from the Department of Energy’s Southern Great Plains site near Ponca City in central Oklahoma. Because April through June is severe weather season in Oklahoma, there will be plenty of convective clouds to study, researchers said.

“Because precipitation is so critical to our daily existence, we naturally would like to know how much rain falls at any given place and time,” said Walt Petersen, who is leading NASA’s component of the campaign.—Internet

Scientists hope to illuminate universe’s dark side

Capo Canaveral, 28 April—Everything scientists now know about the cosmos, from the Big Bang to black holes, has come from measurements of light rays.

But Mother Nature speaks in particles too, and until now their instruments have been largely deaf to her second tongue.

A device due to launch aboard the space shuttle Endeavour from Florida on Friday is designed to give scientists their first detailed study of the electrically charged particles streaming through the cosmos.

The Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer, or AMS, could reshape modern understandings of the universe, much the same way that the Hubble Space Telescope pioneered new frontiers in astronomy, including the startling discovery that the universe’s rate of expansion is speeding up.

Charged cosmic rays give a nearly unexplored region of science,” said Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Samuel Ting, a Nobel laureate who heads the 600-member team that developed the $2 billion AMS.—Reuters

Hynix Semiconductor 1Q profit falls 66 percent

Seoul, 28 April—Hynix Semiconductor’s quarterly profit fell 66 percent as sales declined and memory chip prices remained weak, though the company said business conditions should improve in the second quarter.

Hynix, the world’s second-largest manufacturer of computer memory chips, earned 273.5 billion won ($254.9 million) in the three months ended 31 March, it said in a regulatory filing Thursday. It had net profit of 808.1 billion won a year earlier.

Sales in the first quarter fell 1.1 percent from a year earlier to 2.79 trillion won.

“The business environment was very challenging,” Hynix’s chief financial officer Kim Min-chul told an earnings conference call. Prices for dynamic random access memory or DRAM chips, used mostly in personal computers, remained weak and uncertainties about global economic growth persisted, he said.—Internet

Microsoft Corp Chairman Bill Gates speaks during a news conference in Tokyo on 7 May, 2008.—Internet

Google, Apple also gather location data via computers

San Francisco, 28 April—Google Inc and Apple Inc also collect location data from computers, according to new reports in the US media Tuesday amid privacy concerns over the technology giants tracking mobile phone users.

The two companies obtained the information after a computer scans the area around itself for available Wi-Fi wireless networks, typically after users give a website permission to determine the computer’s approximate location, The Wall Street Journal said in a report on its website.

Google is believed to gather the location data through software in its Chrome browser or search toolbar.—Xinhua

Google and Apple, among other mobile device companies, have been accused of collecting more information than their users intend. Nevertheless, the internet giants insist that their information-collecting programs are harmless and useful.
**Health**

**DNA tests link Southern leprosy cases to armadillo**

**Los Angeles, 28 April**—With some genetic sleuthing, scientists have fingered a likely culprit in the spread of leprosy in the southern United States, the nine-banded armadillo.

DNA tests show a match in the leprosy strain between some patients and these prehistoric-looking critters — a connection scientists had suspected but until now couldn’t pin down.

“You now have the link,” said James Krahenbuhl, who heads a government leprosy programme that led the new study.

Only about 150 leprosy cases occur each year in the US, mostly among travellers to places like India, Brazil and Angola where it’s more common.

The risk of getting leprosy from an armadillo is low because most people who get exposed don’t get sick with the ancient scourge, known medically as Hansen’s disease and curable if promptly treated.

Armadillos are one of the very few mammals that harbor the bacteria that cause the sometimes disfiguring disease, which first shows up as an unusual lumpy skin lesion.

**Surgeons perform heart surgery.**

Heart attacks that occur in the morning are likely to be more serious than attacks at other times of the day, a specialist journal reported on Wednesday.

Heart attacks ‘are worse’ if they happen in the morning.

**London, 28 April** — People who have a heart attack in the morning tend to fare worse than those who have one at other times of the day and night, experts have discovered.

Heart attacks occurring between 0600 and noon are more likely to create a larger area of damaged heart tissue.

The findings in Heart journal come from a study of over 800 patients in Spain. Experts say the body’s natural sleep-awake cycle could explain the differences seen, but advise more research to confirm the findings. It is well established that a person’s 24-hour body clock can influence heart attack risk.

For example, doctors know that people are more likely to have a heart attack around the time they are waking up from sleep than at other times, but what is less known is the extent of damage that this leads to.

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**Volkswagen Q1 profit soars to $2.5 billion**

**Frankfurt, 28 April**—Automaker Volkswagen AG sharply increased net profit to euro1.71 billion ($2.5 billion) in the first quarter as stronger sales in emerging markets such as China, Argentina, and Russia more than made up for slumps in debt-stricken European countries.

Earnings per share of euro3.47 topped analyst expectations of euro3.23. Company shares rose steadily after Wednesday’s announcement and traded up 6 percent at euro117.45 by midafternoon German time.

The company reiterated that this year’s earnings would exceed last year’s, despite a drag on profits from see-sawing exchange rates and higher raw materials prices.

Volkswagen delivered 1.99 million cars worldwide, up 14 percent, outperforming the world auto market, which grew 8.1 percent, the company said. Revenue jumped 31 percent to euro37.47 billion.

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**Fed says $600B bond programme to end in June**

**Washington, 28 April**—The economy and job creation have strengthened enough for the Federal Reserve to end on schedule a programme of buying Treasury bonds to help the economy, the Fed said Wednesday.

Ending a two-day meeting, the Fed made no changes to its benchmark rate at 0.25 percent. The central bank said the programme, which grew 8.1 percent, the company said. Revenue jumped 31 percent to euro37.47 billion.

The decision was unanimous. The bond purchases were intended to lower loan rates, encouraging spending and boost stock prices. But critics worried that the purchases would feed inflation.

The Fed acknowledged a spike in oil prices. But it concluded that the pickup in inflation will be temporary.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke spoke at a historic news conference after the meeting. It was the first time in the Fed’s 98-year history that a chairman has begun holding regular sessions with reporters.

Bernanke said Fed officials expect the moderate economic recovery to continue after weak growth in the first three months of the year. Stocks rose after Bernanke spoke. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 95 points on the day to close at 12,690 — the highest point in nearly three years.

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**Stock index futures signal gains; GDP data eyed**

**New York, 28 April**—Stock index futures pointed to a higher open on Wall Street on Thursday, with futures for the S&P 500 up 0.1 percent, Dow Jones futures up 0.2 percent and Nasdaq 100 up 0.1 percent at 0840 GMT.

Innovators awaited a flurry of corporate results on Thursday from companies such as Coca-Cola (CCE.N), Microsoft (MSFT.O) and Procter & Gamble (PG.N), as well as the first estimate of the US first-quarter GDP growth. Economists in a Reuters survey forecast a 2.0 percent annualized pace of growth compared with a 3.1 percent rate in the final fourth quarter estimate.

US crude futures rose to their highest in 2-1/2 years and metals prices rallied as the Federal Reserve appeared in no rush to tighten its monetary policy.

The dollar sank to a three-year low against a basket of currencies on Thursday and was at risk of a drop to $1.50 versus the euro, with momentum-driven investors piling in anticipation US interest rates will be low for a long time.
NEW DELHI, 28 April— India seems to have narrowed the field in the race for a $12 billion dollar fighter jet deal, with sources Thursday suggesting Dassault’s Rafale and the Eurofighter Typhoon had been shortlisted.

“Only France’s Dassault and Eurofighter have been requested to extend their commercial bids,” a defence ministry official, who declined to be named, told AFP. One of the most sought after military contracts of recent years, the deal for 126 fighters has witnessed fierce competition between defence giants like Boeing and Lockheed Martin of the United States, Sweden’s Saab AB and the Russian makers of the MGG 35. Report that a final shortlist had been drawn up were born out by a statement Wednesday from Saab AB that its JAS-39 Gripen fighter had been deselected.

“Gripen has not been shortlisted for the Indian Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MM- RCA) programme,” the statement said.

The Indian defence ministry refused immediately to confirm that the US and Russian bids had also been dismissed.

The long-delayed contract includes the outright purchase of 18 combat aircraft by 2012 with another 108 to be built in India.

A British Eurofighter jet is seen in action taking off from an Italian military base.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 28 April— The United States believes the highest-ranking pirate it has ever captured pleaded not guilty in federal court Wednesday to piracy, kidnapping and weapons charges related to the February hijacking of a yacht that left four Americans dead.

Mohammad Saaili Shibin, 50, is accused of acting as chief negotiator for more than a dozen pirates who took control of the yacht Quest in the Arabian Sea. The owners of the Quest — Jean and Scott Adam of Marina del Rey, Calif — were shot to death along with friends Bob Riggle and Phyllis Macay of Seattle after they were taken hostage several hundred miles south of Oman.

Unlike the other suspected pirates, court documents say Shibin never boarded the Quest and that he operated from land. He is the first suspected pirate to be taken into custody in Somalia rather than at sea. Court documents say Shibin researched the hostages online to determine how much of a ransom to seek for them. Shibin has also acknowledged acting as a negotiator for a German vessel, the MV Madderia Marguerite, that was taken hostage by pirates in May and released in December, receiving $30,000 for his services, prosecutors said.

A US State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press, says Wednesday that the threat expires Saturday — the day after the wedding. “We do not plan to renew it,” the US official said, suggesting that the threat is no longer considered active or credible.—INTERNET

BOGOTA, 28 April— Five police officers have been killed in two separate attacks by suspected rebel group members, authorities said Wednesday.

Explosives were detonated near a police station Tuesday in the southwestern town of Jambalo, Cauca, killing three police officers and injuring three civilians, including a child and a woman, local police commander Gen. Orlando Pineda said.

The fighting between government forces and suspected members of the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) continued into Wednesday morning, damaging some houses and public utilities nearby, Mayor Carlos Betancur told local media.

In a separate attack, two police officers were killed and one was wounded near Andagoya in the northwestern province of Choco when suspected FARC members attacked a local police station from a boat travelling on the San Juan river.

A US travel advisory for Americans travelling in Colombia was underway amid reports that terrorists were planning a Mumbai-style attack on a European City. More than 160 people were killed in that 2008 attack, when gunmen fired on crowds in a shooting spree.

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FATAH, Hamas in unity govt ‘understanding’

CAIRO, 28 April— Rival Palestinian groups Hamas and Fatah reached an “understanding” in Cairo on Wednesday to set up a transitional unity government and to hold elections, prompting a swift warning from Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded that Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, who heads Fatah, “choose between peace with Israel or peace with Hamas.”

And Washington, the key sponsor of direct Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations which collapsed last September, warned that any Palestinian unity government must renounce violence.

“The United States supports Palestinian reconciliation on terms which promote the cause of peace,” said US National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor.

Travel warning for Americans in Europe will end

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The Wednesday statement from the agency said that a Remora 6000 deep-sea craft made the discovery on its first dive, and a second dive is already under way.

Investigators hope that the black boxes will help determine what caused the 1 June, 2009 crash of Flight 447 from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. All 228 people aboard were killed when the aircraft plunged into a remote area of the Atlantic during a thunderstorm. The bulk of the wreckage was only recently discovered.

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Silent Universities

Maung Hlaing

Every now and then, I come across some interesting news items in the dailies of both Myanmar and English. These news items are talks on enhancement of reading skills and opening of village libraries. Opening libraries means paving the way to a modern society of affluence. People say so.

Whatever it may be, such news items remind me of my childhood days. It was the time when our nation including rural areas were not developed like today. At that time, there were no enough schools let alone libraries.

To make matters worse, as insurgency was at large then, peace and stability did not prevail throughout the rural areas. We were brought up while the government troops and destructive elements were playing hide-and-seek, killing each other in those days.

In such situation, how could we widen our horizon? How could we take happiness in reading? How could we build a learning society? No reading rooms. No reading materials. As for us, we had to rely much on the monasteries where we pursued monastic education. Members of the Sangha taught us primary education simply because most of us were not able to pursue formal education at government schools for various reasons.

Because of the teaching monks, we came to know how to read and write. However, we did not know where we could continue to read and write. We could see a silver lining in dark clouds of those days. That was nothing but a so-called little library emerged in our ward. It was a reading room known as only a single library called “Lin-yaung-chi”, or “Gleam of Light”.

Thanks to the efforts made by some far-sighted ward elders, we were introduced to books. And so we came to know how to make good use of our leisure hours. Although we had an access to only few books, we came to have a taste for reading. We could read even translated works published by the then BTS: Burma Translation Society known as Sarpay Beikman today.

When I was in my high school days, our school came to have a school library larger than the one in our ward. To my memoirs, there was only a reading room run by Information Department known as Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) today. No matter how they were called reading rooms, or reading centres, or libraries, they were the storehouse of knowledge. They were the places where we could seek knowledge.

It seems like just yesterday or the day before yesterday that we had lived in the undeveloped society.

Times have elapsed. Things have changed a lot. And we have been in the Age of Knowledge. Global countries are striving to develop in all aspects, including productivity, with the use of technology. To keep abreast of the global countries, we cannot ignore the importance of libraries that contribute much to human resource development.

In reality, libraries are a great blessing, especially to those who cannot afford to buy all the books they would like to read. As majority of the population of our nation are living in rural areas, we need more rural libraries to contribute to rural development. They help improve knowledge of local people. The rural folks can cultivate the reading habit and they can work together for sustainable development of the libraries in return.

According to the statistics, a total of 55,755 village libraries have been opened nationwide with the investment of over 11 billion kyats. It is encouraging to learn that the Rural Library Foundation has been established and it will be a main organization responsible for long-term durability of the libraries and human resource development.

In fact, libraries are the life in providing knowledge to readers. Librarians are known as silent teachers and libraries are called silent universities. They are very useful and important in education and social spheres.

The situation today is quite different from that of the past. In the past, we toiled in hunting reading materials. Today, all kinds of books are inviting to us and we have libraries at our disposal. Men everywhere have enjoyed the benefits of learning. More and more books are being written to extend human knowledge. Governments and individuals throughout the world therefore, come to open more and more libraries to enable people to read as many books as possible.

Although e-books are all the rage these days, reading materials, or books are still playing a vital role in disseminating knowledge. Although Internet-users are mushrooming up day by day, book-lovers cannot resist going to libraries small or large.

We are to pool our resources to give helping hand to the Rural Library Foundation. Of all gifts, the gift of knowledge is the highest. Let us make hay while the sun shines for the growth of silent universities all over the nation.

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Union Minister for Defence receives Japanese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Union Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Hla Min received Japanese Ambassador at his office here at 2 pm today.—MNA

EP-2 Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe received Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinhua at the ministry, here, this morning. Their discussions focused on cooperation in electric power sector between the two countries.—MNA

Chinese Ambassador calls on Union Minister for Industry-2

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Union Minister for Industry-2 U Soe Thein received Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinhua at the ministry, here, this morning. They cordially discussed cooperation in industrial development between the two countries and timely completion of projects.—MNA

Myanmar, Thailand seek ways to enhance satellite communication

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun received Chief Commercial Officer Mr Yongsit Rojivirachaikul and party of Thaicom Public Co Ltd from Thailand, at the ministry here today. The discussion covered beffing up satellite services and technological cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun receives Chief Commercial Officer Mr Yongsit Rojivirachaikul and party of Thaicom Public Co Ltd.—MNA
He went on to say that the ministry is now undertaking 26 road projects in cooperation with 126 groups of companies. In addition, 36 companies are building 84 more roads stretching over 5252 miles in total under B.O.T system.

Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung spoke words of thanks.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and party had a stroll along the bridge.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito at the ministry here today. They held discussions on promotion of trade between the two countries.

MNA

Deputy Health Minister receives Japanese guest

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint received Resident Representative of Save the Children (Japan) Mr Yasuyuki Fujino at the Ministry of Health here this afternoon.

MNA

Loan to improve lives of farmers in Mandalay Region

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint met with departmental staff in NyaungU District, Township and Sub-township, at NyaungU of Mandalay Region on 25 April. The Chief Minister called for being qualified staff equipped with honesty and goodwill and good servants. He urged them to ensure the accuracy of figures, present actual reports and provide farmers with loan at fair interest rate so as to improve living standards of farmers.

The Chief Minister, accompanied by Mandalay Mayor Minister for Development Affairs U Phone Zaw Han and Minister for Agriculture and Forestry U Myint Than, inspected supply of water by Kyaukpaduang Development Affair Committee.

In the afternoon, the Chief Minister inspected cultivation of summer paddy in Magyeetan village-tract in Kyaukpaduang Township. The Chief Minister arrived at Meiktila Plain Greening Project in the east of Thedaw-Wundwin in the evening. There, Director U Soe Nyunt of Mandalay Region Irrigation Department and officials reported to the Chief Minister on Kengkham multi-purpose dam project, Nampa dam project, Zawgyi multi-purpose dam project (completed in 1997-1998), Myogyi Dam project and Myaungmagyi project in Meiktila Plain.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint meets Resident Representative of Save the Children (Japan) Mr Yasuyuki Fujino.—MNA

Myanmar, Japan to boost trade

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito at the ministry here today. They held discussions on promotion of trade between the two countries.

MNA
I am now over 60. I pursued primary education in Kamakale Village. In those days, the headmaster and assistant headmistress commuted to Kamakale Village through the river to teach the students. So, the Bago River was a natural barrier.

From my youth to 2010, there was only bridge over the Bago River in downtown Bago. Now, there has emerged a suspension bridge over the river, linking Htongyi Village and Kawa. And there is another bridge built due to Yangon-Mandalay Highway Project.

The suspension bridge over the Bago River was built with the contributions made by an anonymous donor. He got local people build the concrete foundations of the suspension bridge on both sides. He said that only local people contributed their service to the building of the bridge, would they have a sense of valuing and maintaining the facility. When the concrete foundations were mature, the suspension bridge was built with ready-made steel rods, pillars and sheets within one day. The Bago River is calm and serene in the summer, but very violent in the rainy season due to torrents. I spent a night many times at the residence of the headmaster on Kyauktan side whenever the river was in flood. Now, local people have won triumph over the natural barrier owning to the goodwill of the anonymous donor.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 29 April, 2011

**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.

**Workers to be rewarded if production exceeds target**

In his instructions, the minister said that if production exceeds the target, rewards are to be provided to workers.

The minister stressed the need to minimize wastage in production of tin, appoint skilled workers and to meet the target production in financial year, to encourage staff to undertake agriculture and livestock breeding on a manageable scale, to give priority to welfare of staff and to take security measures.

The minister inspected tasks at the minerals warehouse on Phonegyi Street in Seikkan Township of Yangon Region.

MNA

**Suspension bridge over Bago River...**

I am now over 60. I pursued primary education in Kamakale Village. In those days, the headmaster and assistant headmistress of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinhua at the ministry, here, yesterday evening. They discussed plans on cooperation in development of border regions, improvement of social-economic life of national races and industrial development between the two countries.

MNA

**Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Maj-Gen Thein Htay received Ambassador of Myanmar Mr Li Jinhua at the ministry here today. They discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

MNA

**Union F&R Minister receives Chinese Ambassador**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinhua at the ministry here today. They frankly discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

MNA

**Eucalyptus, teak plantations inspected**

YANGON, 28 April — Mon State Forestry Minister U Win Maw Oo met staff of Mon State Forest Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise at the office of Mon State Forest Department on 7 April.

On 8 April, he inspected the deputy general manager’s office of Mon State Timber Enterprise, Myinthaya Nursery of Mon State Forest Department, hard wood eucalyptus plantation of inexpensive rural housing and teak plantation of Pharauck village.

On his arrival at Mawlamyine (Affiliated Chaungzon Township) on 23 April, the minister grew a plant at the office of Chaungzon Township in-charge and inspected hard wood eucalyptus plantation.

MNA

**Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinhua calls on Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun.—**

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**Translation: MS**

Myanma Alin: 21-4-2011

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Tokyo, 28 April—Japan’s factory production and consumer spending both fell the most on record in March as the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters sent the country’s halting economic recovery into reverse.

The government said Thursday that industrial production plunged 15.3 percent from February after the 11 March earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan’s industrial northeast, crippled a nuclear power station that continues to leak radiation and caused widespread power shortages.

Factory production had been expected to fall sharply due to the disasters, but the drop was worse than the forecast of an 11.4 percent decline in a Kyodo News agency survey of analysts.

The disasters, which killed about 25,000 people, destroyed many factories, causing severe parts and component shortages for automakers in the past decade, as economic reforms raise living standards and pull more people off farms into the cities while families get smaller and the population ages. China’s rapid aging has fueled worries over how long the country will be able to sustain its high economic growth, as fewer young people are available to work in factories and build the roads that transformed it into the world’s second biggest economy after the United States.

FRANKFURT, 28 April—Consumer sentiment in Germany is set to fall further in May following a decline in April which was the first for 10 months, the GfK economic research institute said on Wednesday.

The institute’s survey of 2,000 households in Europe’s biggest economy resulted in an indexed 5.9 points, a relatively solid level but a drop from 5.9 points the previous month, a GfK statement said.

GfK uses its findings to publish an indexed assessment of overall economic prospects as well as their propensity to make large purchases.

Shoppers browse in Berlin. Consumer sentiment in Germany is set to fall further in May following a decline in April which was the first for 10 months, the GfK economic research institute said on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Internet

In this 18 April, 2011 file photo, workers give the final checkup on the cars of Honda Accord Tourer at Honda Motor Co’s Saitama Factory in Sayama, north of Tokyo, as the Japanese automaker resumed limited production of automobiles on 11 April.—Reuters

In this photo taken, 25 April, 2011, an elderly Chinese man talks to a child on a street of Daxing District in Beijing, China.—INTERNET

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Brazil to train about 150,000 professionals by June 2012 for 2014 World Cup

BRASILIA, 28 April—Brazilian Ministry of Tourism will train about 150,000 professionals by June 2012 to work in the 12 cities that will host games during the 2014 World Cup.

According to the Minister of Tourism Pedro Novais, who participated in a public hearing in the Brazilian Senate on Wednesday, the total number of people to be trained by 2013 amounts to 306,000 professionals and about 280 million dollars will be invested in training programmes.

These people will work mainly in airports, car rental companies and hotels as drivers, adventure guides, receptionists, information providers, housekeepers and managers.—Xinhua

Indian commuters pass by a billboard of British mobile giant Vodafone paid $11.1 billion to buy an Indian cellular operator four years ago, it had high hopes the purchase would offset saturated markets at home.

“This kind of deal is what we all dreamed about when we were students,” former chief executive Arun Sarin exulted after the company bought Essar.

But even though Vodafone has won tens of millions of new subscribers in the hyper-competitive Indian market, it has faced innumerable problems.

“Has India been a good case in terms of return on investment” Vodafone global chief executive Vittorio Colao said on a visit this month to the country. “Unfortunately, the answer is no.”

The Indian market soured for Vodafone, the world’s biggest mobile firm by revenues, soon after its entry.

“For sure, the market has become tougher. Within a year of our acquisition, the rules were changed and six new (national) licences were issued. New players came into the market with very aggressive pricing,” Colao said.

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Internet

China census shows population aging rapidly

BEIJING, 28 April—China’s population is aging rapidly, the government said Thursday, though its leaders are refusing to relax strict family planning controls that are part of the cause.

The results of a national census conducted late last year show that the proportion of elderly people in the country of 1.34 billion jumped, while that of young people plunged sharply.

The census results, announced Thursday, also show that half the population now lives in cities.

The census adds data to the world-changing shifts under way in China: as economic reforms raise living standards and pull more people off farms into the cities while families get smaller and the population ages.

China’s rapid aging has fueled worries over how long the country will be able to sustain its high economic growth, as fewer young people are available to work in factories and build the roads that transformed it into the world’s second biggest economy after the United States.

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GfK uses its findings to publish an indexed assessment of overall economic prospects as well as their propensity to make large purchases.

But their propensity to make large purchases remained strong owing to the fact that “the excellent economic situation in Germany and rising employment are evidently easing fears of job losses,” GfK said.

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Vodafone struggles in India market

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Internet

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S Korea current account surplus rises

SEOUL, 28 April—South Korea’s current account surplus increased in March from the previous month due to strong exports despite rising oil and other raw material prices, the central bank said Thursday.

The account surplus, the broadest measure of trade with the rest of the world, was $1.43 billion last month compared to a revised $1.13 billion in February.

The surplus in March 2010 stood at $1.20 billion. The account remained in the black for a 13th consecutive month, boosted by robust exports amid the global economic recovery. The goods account surplus rose considerably to $2.86 billion in March from a revised $1.53 billion in February.—Internet

Containers are seen stacked up at a terminal in the southeastern port city of Busan.—INTERNET

Internet

WASHINGTON, 28 April—The US trade deficit widened in March to $39.1 billion, falling short of forecasts and showing that the world’s largest economy was still finding it hard to break away from its debt-laden, slow-growth condition.

The government said Thursday that exports increased 1.1 percent to $138.5 billion, about the same as in February, while imports rose 0.7 percent to $177.6 billion.

The balance of trade for the first quarter is expected to have weighed down growth in the world’s top economy, which is struggling to shake off widespread problems that have been brought on by years of profligate spending and a surfeit of debt.

A more vigorous export sector is expected to help fuel US recovery in the months to come.

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INTERNET

S Korea current account surplus rises
Hyundai shares jump to record high after profit surge

SEOUL, 28 April—Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) reported a 47 percent jump in quarterly profit on Thursday, sending its shares to a record high, with investors betting the firm is less reliant on production slump.

The South Korean firm is less reliant on Japanese parts than other global car makers such as General Motors (GM.N) and Hyundai is widely seen among the biggest beneficiaries of a prolonged disruption in Japanese output this year following the 11 March earthquake.

“Hyundai has been emerging as an alternative to Japanese cars, shaking off its image as a maker of cheap cars,” said Lee Dong-jin, a fund manager at KTB Asset Management. “It’s now seeing some benefits from increasing production at overseas plants while the world took a hit from the financial crisis.”

Apple denies tracking iPhones, to fix ‘bugs’

WASHINGTON, 28 April—Apple on Wednesday denied claims it was tracking iPhone users but said it would fix software “bugs” that resulted in location data being unencrypted and stored for up to a year.

“Apple is not tracking the location of your iPhone,” the California-based company said in its first response to privacy questions raised by a pair of researchers. “Apple has never done so and has no plans to ever do so.”

Apple said the iPhone was not logging a user’s location but maintaining a database of nearby Wi-Fi hotspots and cell towers to “help your iPhone rapidly and accurately calculate its location when storing latitude and longitude coordinates in a hidden file along with a time stamp and the data was easily retrievable.”

“By passively logging your location without your permission, Apple has made it possible for anyone from a jealous spouse to a private investigator to get a detailed picture of your movements,” they said.

Apple said the location data the researchers were seeing on the iPhone is “not the past or present location of the iPhone, but rather the locations of Wi-Fi hotspots and cell towers surrounding the iPhone’s location, which can be more than one hundred miles away from the iPhone.”

Asian economy to grow seven percent in 2011-12

HONG KONG, 28 April—Asia will continue to lead global economic growth over the next two years even as it grapples with risks including inflation and the effects of Japan’s tsunami, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday.

“Robust” regional growth of close to 7 percent will be fueled by exports and domestic demand, Anoop Singh, director of the Washington-based body’s Asia & Pacific department, said in the twice-yearly report. Asia’s overall economy grew 8.3 percent in 2010. Growth will be driven by economic powerhouse China and India. The IMF forecasts China’s economy will grow 9.5 percent while India will expand about 8 percent over the next two years.
Adaptable urban birds have bigger brains

London, 28 April - City dwelling birds have larger brains relative to their body size, according to scientists. They have found that family traits are key to identifying why certain birds thrive in European cities. "Urban adapters" including tits, crows, nuthatches and wrens all come from families of related species that have large brains compared to their bodies. Researchers from the Evolutionary Biology Centre, Uppsala, Sweden and the Donana Biological Station, Seville, Spain studied 82 species of birds from 22 families. — Internet

Announcing A Marriage

The marriage is announced between Aung Mon
son of U Tin Aung San and Daw Aye Khin of No. 223, 1st floor, 40th Street, 9th Quarter, Kyauktada Township, Yangon and Zin Mar Lwin daughter of U Khin Maung Latt and Daw Kyin Hnwe of No. 25, Konezyadzay Street, 6th Quarter, Pazundang Township, Yangon on Monday, the 25th April 2011 before Daw Nyo Mi San, Judge, Juvenile Court, Yangon with the permission of both sides of parents.

The parents of both sides and
Aung Mon & Zin Mar Lwin

Alien search telescope is shelved

San Francisco, 28 April — A monitoring system for potential extra-terrestrial communication has been shelved due to budget cuts. The Allen Telescope Array (ATA) in California has been mothballed, according to the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (Seti) Institute. Funding for the observatory, which hosts the ATA, has been cut to one-tenth its former level. The Seti Institute was established in 1984 to look for life beyond Earth.

The telescopes, at the Hat Creek Radio Observatory north of San Francisco, California, have a number of science goals, including searching for radio signals from intelligent life in the Universe. — Internet

France: Mulhouse airport traffic controller killed

Paris, 28 April — An air traffic controller has been found stabbed to death at the EuroAirport outside Mulhouse, France, near the Swiss and German borders. Police say the 34-year-old was found in a pool of blood in an office in the control tower that is accessible only with an identity badge. Prosecutors have opened a murder investigation. French reports say.

The victim, a married father of one who has not been named, was a senior official at the airport. A spokesman for the civil aviation authority, the DGAC, said the victim, who had worked at the airport since leaving education in 1998, was in charge of the control tower. He was found shortly after 0800 (0600 GMT) by an employee of the airport. — Internet

FDA set to approve drug for hepatitis C

Washington, 28 April — A US Food and Drug Administration advisory panel advises approval of Merck & Co’s hepatitis C drug boceprevir, government officials say.

The FDA advisory panel of outside experts voted 18-0 to approve boceprevir, expected to be marketed under the brand name Victrelis, the Wall Street Journal reported.

FDA staff say the agency is leaning toward approving boceprevir and a similar product, telaprevir, from Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. Telaprevir is scheduled to be reviewed Thursday by the same FDA advisory panel, the Journal says.

Debra Birkrant, the director of FDA’s anti-viral-drugs division told the Journal both products appear to increase sustained virologic response rates, “to more than 30 percent above what we have today.” Both drugs — protease inhibitors, designed to block an enzyme that helps the hepatitis C virus replicate — worked better when added to existing treatments and in some cases, shortened the total treatment time.

Air traffic at the airport was not affected by the killing, officials said. — Internet

Police lose suspect, and his chair

New York, 28 April — Police in the US are looking for a robbery suspect who escaped from custody by slipping out of a back door while handcuffed to a chair. John Caesar, 58, was being questioned over theft from a bar in Buffalo, NY. He was handcuffed to the chair in a police station when he escaped. Police said the chair was missing and Caesar may still be handcuffed to it. — Internet
Man faked 911 call to avoid arrest

Authorities in Florida said they arrested a man who made a fake 911 call about a shooting to avoid being arrested for driving on a suspended license. Collier County sheriff’s deputies said Jonathan Paul Rorech, 31, of Naples, was pulled over about 1 am Tuesday while driving 45 mph in a 30 mph zone and he told the deputy he had a North Carolina driver’s license at home, the Naples Daily News reported Wednesday. The sheriff’s report said the deputy discovered Rorech did not have a valid North Carolina or Florida driver’s license but sent the motorist on his way when he received a report of shots fired. The deputy arrived at the location of the reported shooting and discovered there had been no shots fired. He suspected the 911 call was false and recognized Rorech’s voice from the recording of the call.

Spanish man sues parents over allowance

A judge ordered a 25-year-old Spanish man who sued his parents for ending his allowance to quit freeload, officials said.

Judge Jose Luis Urrera, who presides over the Family Court of Malaga, ordered a man from Andalusia in southern Spain to leave his parents’ home within 30 days, Think Spain reported. The son, who has not been named in court documents, sued his parents after they cut his monthly allowance of $587. The judge said the family couldn’t afford the luxury of maintaining an adult offspring and said the man, who doesn’t work or attend college, is capable of finding a job. “Parents have no absolute or unlimited obligation to provide maintenance for their adult children — such actions are only limited to certain circumstances,” Urrera said. In Spain, it’s not unusual for offspring to remain living in the parental household well into their 30s, especially when the youth unemployment rate is the highest in the European Union at 40 percent. There are 4.6 million unemployed in Spain, government figures for the fourth quarter of 2010 indicate.

Lohan admits I made ‘a lot of mistakes’

The 24-year-old star of “Mean Girls” and “Freaky Friday” has battled drug and alcohol addiction in recent years. She is now awaiting trial on a shoplifting charge. A judge last week sentenced Lohan to 120 days in jail because the theft allegation violated the terms of her probation in a prior theft allegation. She is now awaiting trial on a shoplifting charge. The judge said the family couldn’t afford the luxury of maintaining an adult offspring and said the man, who doesn’t work or attend college, is capable of finding a job. “Parents have no absolute or unlimited obligation to provide maintenance for their adult children — such actions are only limited to certain circumstances,” Urrera said. In Spain, it’s not unusual for offspring to remain living in the parental household well into their 30s, especially when the youth unemployment rate is the highest in the European Union at 40 percent. There are 4.6 million unemployed in Spain, government figures for the fourth quarter of 2010 indicate.

Las Vegas to host Michael Jackson show

Los Angeles, 28 April—Cirque du Soleil and Michael Jackson’s estate unveiled plans for a permanent show honouring the pop icon at a Las Vegas casino resort, including items from his Neverland Ranch.

While the permanent show won’t open until early 2013, the dance company will also bring its Michael Jackson “The Immortal” world tour to the US gambling mecca’s Mandalay Bay resort and casino this December, they said. “We are excited about creating this new Michael Jackson production for Mandalay Bay. Michael Jackson is creatively inspiring for Cirque du Soleil artisans and creative teams,” said Cirque du Soleil boss Daniel Lamarre.

The executors of the late King of Pop’s estate have agreed to an official Michael Jackson Fan Fest opening at the same time as the tour shows in Las Vegas, the first such officially-endorsed project since he died in June 2009.
Soderling struggles, Tsonga stunned in Estoril tennis

ESTORIL, 28 April — Robin Soderling struggled to a patchy if encouraging victory on Wednesday to open play at the Estoril Open as Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga made a miserable debut at the clay court event. Top seed Soderling was looking on the bright side after coasting in the first and last sets but fighting for his life in the second to emerge with a 6-1, 6-7 (4/7), 6-1 defeat of France’s Jeremy Chardy.

Tsonga, like Soderling playing his first career match at the Estadio Nacional, was much less successful as he went down quietly to Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay 6-2, 7-6 (7/8). The third seed had little to offer after the loss, his second from three played on clay this spring. “It was perfect conditions, but my opponent played well and I didn’t,” said the former Australian Open finalist. “There was nothing special in the match or in my game today.”

Mediterranean coast

Lyon’s Toulalan suffers knee injury

LYON, 28 April — Lyon’s former France midfielder Jeremy Toulalan looks set to miss their next league match against Toulouse on Sunday after suffering a left knee injury in Wednesday’s 3-2 win over Montpellier. The 27-year-old, who has not earned a recall to the national side since receiving a one game suspension for his role in the French players’ protest over strike at last year’s World Cup finals — had to go off in the ninth minute of the match.

Lyon coach Claude Puel — who has switched Toulalan to a central defensive role this season — said that the 36-times capped Toulalan could have suffered ligament damage. “We will see what the outcome is of the scans that he undergoes this evening or tomorrow morning,” said Puel, who played an influential part in persuading Toulalan in not retiring totally from football after the World Cup debacle.

Bayern will not pay ‘astronomical’ sum for Neuer

BERLIN, 28 April — Bayern Munich warned Schalke 04 on Wednesday that it is not ready to pay out an “astronomical sum” for goalkeeper Manuel Neuer. “We want Manuel,” Bayern president Uli Hoeness said in comments to the t.z. daily. “When there’s a desire, we can find a solution but Schalke management must now come up with an astronomical sum. ‘Negotiations haven’t started, but they’re imminent.’”

Neuer starred in Schalke’s 2-0 defeat to Manchester United in the semi-final, first leg Champions League tie on Tuesday. The goalkeeper produced a sequence of stunning saves in the opening period, only for second-half strikes from Ryan Giggs and Wayne Rooney to earn United a victory that scarcely reflected the extent of their dominance.

Irate Mourinho rails against Barca ‘favouritism’

MADRID, 28 April — Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho could not hide his anger in the wake of the 2-0 Champions League semi-final first leg defeat to rivals Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday, saying referees always favoured Barcelona. The Portuguese coach highlighted the dismissal of Pepe on the hour mark of being another example of this favouritism.

A late brace from Lionel Messi helped Barcelona put one leg in the Wembley final but there were sour grapes as Mourinho, who was sent to the stands, vented his fury at the straight red card for Pepe. “Chebca couldn’t get to the final three years ago (in the 2009 semi-final) against Barcelona. Against Inter Milan last year we played with ten men against Barcelona (Inter still went on to eliminate them and win the trophy beating Bayern Munich) and once again this year we played with ten men,” bemoaned Mourinho.

Toulalan’s disposal by Pepe

Cologne name Volker as third coach of season

BERLIN, 28 April — Cologne on Wednesday named Volker Finke as interim coach after the shock departure of Frank Schaefer, in the third change this season for the struggling Bundesliga club.

Schaefer, who had taken charge of the club from Zvonimir Soldo in October, announced earlier this month that he would be quitting Cologne at the season’s end, but his departure was brought forward after the club lost 4-1 to Wolfsburg at the weekend.

It was their third loss in a row that left Cologne, which appeared to be climbing the table after a run of seven straight home wins just before this latest poor run, in 14th place. Schaefer is the 12th Bundesliga manager sacked this season, an all-time record for the German top flight. In 2006-07 a total of 10 managers either left or were sacked.

Over half of London Olympic events oversubscribed

LONDON, 28 April — Five sports events and the opening and closing ceremonies sold out in the first round of ticket sales for the 2012 London Olympics, with 1.8 million applicants making 20 million requests. After a six-week online application period for the 6.6 million tickets on sale, Olympic organizers said on Wednesday that more than half of the 650 competition sessions in 26 sports were oversubscribed.

While tickets remain for sports such as track and field, already sold out are track cycling, rhythmic gymnastics, triathlon, modern pentathlon and the cross-country equestrian competition. Also no longer available are tickets for both ceremonies, with the opening on 27 July, 10 times oversubscribed. Tickets for those events will be allocated through a lottery system.

The London organizing committee, known as LOCOG, also said the “majority” of the swimming and tennis sessions have sold out. Organizers had hoped to sell 80 per cent of the tickets by 20 July, leaving about 1.3 million available for sale in a later phase.

LOCOG did not disclose exactly how many how many tickets have been bought or how many remain unsold, but said there will be further sales in June and July.

Messi gives Barcelona 2-0 win over 10-man Madrid

MADRID, 28 April — Lionel Messi’s clutch scoring was over-shadowed by the loud complaining from the other side. Messi hit up an ill-tempered Champions League semifinal on Wednesday with two goals in the last 15 minutes to give Barcelona a 2-0 victory over short-handed Real Madrid.

“A team that has nine European Cups never gives up on a series. I’m convinced of that,” Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola said. “We played a very good game. We controlled their counterattacks, their aerial game, which is very dangerous.”

The match turned on the ejection of Madrid’s Pepe in the 61st minute. That enraged Madrid coach Jose Mourinho, who was sent to the stands for a foul on Lionel Messi. The Portuguese coach highlighted the dismissal of Pepe on the hour mark of being another example of this favouritism.

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Barcelona’s player Lionel Messi celebrates his goal against Real Madrid’s goalkeeper Iker Casillas during their Champions League semi-final first leg soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid.
China’s farm produce prices fall last week

BEIJING, 28 April—The price of Chinese farm produce fell last week, the Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday, indicating easing inflationary pressures this month.

During the week of 18 to 24 April, wholesale prices of 18 types of vegetables dropped for the fourth consecutive week, registering a 21.1 percent decline from one month ago, said a statement posted on the ministry’s website.

One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast valid until evening of the 29th April 2011: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions. Kayah State and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of day temperatures in the whole Country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-4-2011: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-4-2011: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-4-2011: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Giant panda wildlife training improved in SW China

CHENGDU, 28 April—Giant pandas raised at the Wolong Nature Reserve in southwest China’s Sichuan Province will have greater opportunities to get back to nature this year.

One of the reserve’s pandas, a giant panda named Cao Cao, was moved to a larger, more challenging training area with her cub in February of this year. Their wildlife training programme began last August.

“This means giant pandas bred in captivity will be able to experience more of the ‘real’ wilderness environment,” said Huang Yan, a panda expert with the Giant Panda Protection and Research Centre in Wolong.

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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

Hlawga Park to be kept open on Workers’ Day
YANGON, 28 April — Hlawga Park of Forest Department will be kept open from 8 am to 6 pm on 1 May (Workers’ Day) for public relaxation and recreation. — MNA

Apple denies location-tracking allegations after week-long silence
SAN FRANCISCO, 27 April — Apple Inc. on Wednesday denied the alleged location-tracking practice of its mobile operating system, saying it will release software updates to make iPhone store less location information to quell public concerns over privacy.

According to the statement, the location data researchers saw on iPhone is a database of Wi-Fi hotspots and cell towers around users’ current location that Apple is maintaining to help iPhone rapidly and accurately calculate its location when requested. It noted Apple cannot locate iPhone users based on Wi-Fi hotspot and cell tower data as the information is in an anonymous and encrypted form. — Internet

The suspension bridge crossing Bago River.

The Bago River is a well-known waterway as the Mingun Bell forcibly took from Singuttara Hill, where the Shwedagon Pagoda is situated, by Portugal Philips Debrito (a) Nga Zin Gar, governor of Thanlyin, sank in the mouth of the Dawbon River near the Bago River. Therefore, the name “the Bago River” is featured in many historical periodicals.

The Bago River is about 90 miles long from its mouth to Yangon. It rises at the place where the Thameehla Creek and Zarmayi Creek that flows from the Hsinhnamaung Mountain, a mountain of the 2639 feet high Bago Yoma Mountain Range in Thayawady meet. In the rainy season, log rafts and bamboo rafts are set adrift downstream the Bago River.

My native region is on the bank of the Bago River. However, I cannot swim because my parents and grandparents forbade me from having a swim in the river. I used to get cross the river daily.

If a local wanted to Bago or Yangon from my native town, he had to go to Kyauktan Station through the river by boat. People of such surrounding villages as Moe Khaing Gyi, Moe Khaing Lay, Kyartet and Nibban, if they had to go to Bago or Yangon, had to the port by bullock cart first.

Then, they had to proceed to the station through the river. Thence, they took their trains to the destinations. At that time, there was no barber shop in Kamakale Village.

If a villager wanted to have a hair-cut or to have a cup of tea or a plate of fried noodle, he had to go to Kyauktan Village, crossing the Bago River.

(See page 9)