Facilities for power supply in Yangon Region inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe visited Thakayta Gas Power Plant and the township General Administration Department in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, on 2 May.

The minister inspected the land plot for construction of warehouse and two-storey office building in Ahlon Power Plant compound, and progress in construction of tension towers for 230 KV Hlinethaya-Ahlon Power Grid (across Hline River).

The Union Minister on 3 May saw over construction of 17 outdoor switch bays in the switch yard of 230 KV Hlawga Power Station in Yangon South District.—MNA

Rail-cum-road facility in Malun to stretch across Ayeyawady River

Article: Kayan Soe Myint; Photos: Kyaw Moe Lwin

Recently, we started a highway trip by car along Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Chaungnet-Taungdwingyi Road, which is one of seven Yoma crossing roads. Beyond Taungdwingyi, we headed for Magway. Between mile posts No 11/4 and No 11/5 on Migyaungye-Pahtanago Road in Magway District, we arrived at Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) construction project.

We have learnt that the construction of the project commenced on 22-11-2009.

The main bridge will be 3215 feet and 5 inches long and it will be rail-cum-road facility.

Both approach bridges (motor road) on Migyaungye bank and Malun bank will be 1312 feet long each.

The approach bridge (railroad) on Migyaungye bank will be 1922 feet and eight inches long and on Malun bank, 2008 feet long.

The bridge will have 28 feet wide motor way, 14 feet wide railroad and three feet wide pedestrian way on either side.

(See page 8)
**People’s Desire**

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

**Fight against narcotic drugs on a collaborative basis**

Myanmar is carrying out poppy-substitute cultivation and livestock breeding tasks in order to reduce and eliminate drug production, drug trafficking and drug abuse.

Educative campaigns are being launched so that young people who are leaders of the future can know the consequences of narcotic drugs and will not lead to the wrong way because of drug abuse.

The youth must be active and dynamic as well as healthy and intelligent. So, organizational measures are to be taken for them in order not to fall prey to drugs.

Western nations with science and technological superiority intentionally spread drug production techniques and equipment to developing countries.

When it comes to the cooperation with the international community, Myanmar is implementing drug eradication tasks by signing agreements with the regional countries and the neighbouring nations in the sub-region.

Aside from drug eradicative and preventive tasks, other necessary measures are also being taken for treatment, rehabilitation, education as it is important to eliminate drug abuse.

Since narcotic drugs pose a grave threat to the entire mankind, all the people are urged to take part in the efforts for drug prevention and elimination.

**Tahlay earthquake victims provided with cash and clothes**

Tahlay, 6 May—A donation ceremony to earthquake victims of Tahlay Region, Tachilek District, Shan State took place at Shan State Hluttaw Meeting Hall on 4 May.

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sau Aung Myat accepted K 40 million donated by Mongla Township residents, 16 million by Laukkai District residents, 15.1 million by Muse District residents and K 13,149,730 by wellwishers and the public.

The Shan State hluttaw speaker, the Shan State chief Justice, the Shan State hluttaw vice-speaker, and the state ministers accepted donation made by locals and private companies of Shan State. The donation amounts K 133,339,730, of which K 9,224,500 in terms of clothes and 70 Bhats.

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sau Aung Myat accepts donation made by a wellwisher.

**Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi receives Head of Office Ms. Barbara Manzi of UNOCHA and party.**—MNA

**Union Minister meets officials of UNOCHA, UN-Habitat**

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi received Head of Office Ms. Barbara Manzi of UNOCHA and party and Head of Agency Mr. Srinivasa B Pappuri of UN-Habitat at his office here at 1 pm and 2 pm separately.

They held discussions on social welfare works and rescue and rehabilitation tasks to be carried out at disaster-hit regions. — MNA

**Annual plans assigned in Yangon Region**

Yangon, 6 May—At the ceremony to assign annual plans for 2011-2012 of Yangon Region held this afternoon, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe stressed the need for all staff from various sectors to discharge duties and administrative bodies, departments and enterprises to strive for exceeding the targets.

Head of Yangon Region Planning Department U Khin Swe reported on plans for respective sectors.

The Chief Minister assigned respective plans to four deputy commissioners of General Administration Department of four districts.—MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe assigns duties to deputy commissioners of GAD.—MNA

**Myanmar, Thai businessmen to hold talks on 11 May**

Yangon, 6 May — As part of efforts for boosting the bilateral cooperation in business sector, Myanmar and Thai entrepreneurs will hold talks at the International Business Centre here on 11 May.

The 29-member business delegation from Thailand called on Dr. Myo Thet, Secretary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the RUMFCCI here on 3 May, and during the meeting, they discussed holding the meeting and win-win cooperation in producing foodstuff and manufacturing autos and spare parts and household goods.

Those wishing to attend the meeting may enroll at the RUMFCCI or office of the Thai commercial attaché Ph: 558556, not later than 9 May. —MNA
25 killed, 75 wounded in Iraq’s suicide car bombing

Baghdad, 6 May—A suicide car bomb attack on the Iraqi police in south of Baghdad on Thursday killed 25 and wounded another 75, a local police source told Xinhua. “Our latest reports put the toll from the suicide car bombing in the city of Hillah at 25 and 75 wounded,” the source from Hillah police told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack occurred in the centre of Hillah, the capital city of Babil Province some 90 kilometres south of Baghdad, when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into the entrance of a police headquarters during a shift change as many policemen were gathering outside the building, the source said. The powerful blast badly damaged the facade of the headquarters and a large part of the building, the source added.

Most of the killed and wounded were policemen and several cars, nearby shops and buildings were damaged in the blast, he said, adding that the police force has cordoned off the area for investigation.

Mississippi Delta sees flooding from mighty river

Memphis, 6 May—Parts of the Mississippi Delta are beginning to flood, sending white-tail deer and wild pigs swimming to dry land, submerging yacht clubs and closing casino boats, and compelling residents to flee from their homes.

The sliver of land in northwest Mississippi, home to hardship and blueans Muddy Waters, is in the crosshairs of the slowly surging river, just like many other areas along the banks of the big river.

To points much farther north, thousands face the decision of whether to stay or go as high water kept on rolling down the Mississippi and its tributaries, threatening to soak over the next week or two. The flooding is already breaking high-water records that have stood since the 1930s.

A US drone attack kills 15 in Pakistan tribal area

Peshawar, 6 May—The US carried out its first drone attack in Pakistan since Osama bin Laden’s death in an American raid this week, killing 15 people in a hail of missiles near the Afghani border Friday. Pakistani intelligence officials said.

The strike targeted a vehicle suspected of carrying foreign militants in the North Waziristan tribal area, an al-Qaeda and Taleban stronghold that has been subject to frequent missile attacks, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The aircraft fired eight missiles at the vehicle as it drove near a roadside restaurant, killing at least 15 people, including foreign militants, said the officials. At least one civilian died when the missiles damaged the restaurant and a nearby home, they said.

It was unclear whether intelligence gleaned from the US commando raid that killed bin Laden on Monday played a part in the drone strike. Drone attacks are extremely unpopular in Pakistan, and the most recent attack could further increase tensions between the US and Pakistan that have spiked in the wake of bin Laden’s death.

Many US officials have expressed skepticism of claims by Pakistani officials that they didn’t know where bin Laden was hiding even though he was found in a compound in the army town of Abbottabad, only about a two hours’ drive from the capital.

Susilo says to work toward a more equitable ASEAN

Jakarta, 6 May—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said Thursday one of the country’s priorities as ASEAN Chair is to make the regional body more equitable and inclusive.

Speaking at the first ASEAN-EU business summit, the Indonesian President said the nation has a vision for ASEAN, that is to ensure “we narrow the development gap between ASEAN economies.” Economic disparity between member countries has been regarded as one of the biggest hurdles for the body’s effort to integrate.

Yudhoyono noted that building infrastructure and connectivity within ASEAN countries would help reduce disparities. “I believe infrastructure building and connectivity is not just about efficiency but also about reducing disparities,” he said, adding that it will also offer opportunities for investment.

Aside from narrowing development gap, Yudhoyono said Indonesia will also work to strengthen ASEAN coordination for macro-economic policy and address issues such as food and energy security challenges, climate change and consolidation of various trade agreements.
### Cosmic snake star pattern now slithering across night sky

**LONDON, 6 May**—A giant celestial snake is slithering into view in our current night sky this spring.

We can look to the south to trace it during the early evening hours. In fact, the snake is one of the most extensive of all star patterns: the long and mostly faint constellation of Hydra, the female water snake.

Interestingly, there is also a much shorter, male snake bearing the name Hydrus that is visible only in Southern Hemisphere skies.

This sky map of the Hydra constellation shows where to look in the southern sky to spot the cosmic snake.

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### Arctic warming could raise oceans 5 feet

**OSLO, 6 May**—Arctic warming, occurring twice as fast as the global average, could raise sea levels more than 5 feet in 90 years, an official multinational study forecast.

The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme forecast — for the international Arctic Council of eight arctic rim countries, including the United States — predicted sea levels would rise 2.75 times more than the top figure of the landmark 2007 UN. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which forecast of 7 to 23 inches by the end of the century.

“Global sea level is projected to rise 0.9 to 1.6 metres [3 feet to 5 feet 3 inches] by 2100, and the loss from arctic glaciers, ice caps and the Greenland Ice Sheet will make a substantial contribution to this,” the AMAP report said ahead of a 12 May meeting in Greenland of Arctic Council nations Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States.

APMA is a council working group. The Greenland Ice Sheet is the second-largest body of ice after the Antarctic Ice Sheet covering more than 660,000 square miles, or roughly 80 percent of Greenland. If it were to melt totally, its frozen water would push up global sea levels 24 feet, a 2001 study indicated.

The reason for the accelerated melting and seal-level rise is a phenomenon, or mechanism, called “feedbacks,” the study said.—Internet

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### Sony lets loose pair of Xperia Mini smartphones

**Tokyo, 6 May**—Sony’s gaming division may be working tirelessly to sew up the loose ends of its PlayStation Network, but Sony Ericsson, the company’s smartphone branch, is having no such woes. Today they unveiled a pair of brand new Android smartphones to join the company’s Xperia handset line. The Xperia Mini and Xperia Mini Pro bring a decidedly diminutive touch to Sony’s handset offerings — much like the Veer has done for HP.

Both the standard Mini and Mini Pro will run Android 2.3 Gingerbread right out of the gate, a notable feature considering much of the Android market is still using version 2.2 Froyo. The phones sport 3” touch displays, 720p HD video recording capability, integrated Facebook features, and Sony’s DLNA connection technology that allows users to toss content from the phone to compatible Bravia TVs.

The Pro model ups the ante and adds slide-out “Smart Keyboard” which automatically predicts what you want to use it for. For example, if you’re surfeing the web and slide open the keyboard the cursor automatically jumps to the search or address bar. No word on a specific launch date was given, but Sony expects to release the new pair in the fall.—Internet

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### Global 3D TV market to grow 5-fold in 2011

**Seoul, 6 May**—The global 3D television market will grow more than 5-fold to account for 11 percent of flat-screen TV sales this year, as prices fall sharply and manufacturers add the function as an add-on feature, research firm IHS iSuppli predicted on Friday.

It projected 3D TV shipments would rise to 23.4 million units this year from last year’s 4.2 million units, gaining further to 159 million units in 2015. By that time, iSuppli said, 3D TVs would account for more than half of global flat-panel shipments.

TV manufacturers, led by South Korea’s Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics Inc and Japan’s Sony Corp are hoping high-end models such as 3D help them arrest razor-sharp profit margins amid intensifying competition with low-cost producers in the commoditized flat-screen TV market.

Another research firm, DisplaySearch, also forecast last week that 3D TVs will rise to more than 50 percent of revenues and hit the 100-million unit sales mark by 2014.

By technology, active shutter-glass (SG) type sets, the current industry standard, will gradually give way to passive film pattern retarder (FPR) types and fall below 50 percent of the overall 3D market by 2015, iSuppli said.

The shift can be a big threat to top TV maker Samsung, which is aggressively pushing for SG technology and has been embroiled in a growing war of words this year with hometown rival LG Electronics and its panel supplier LG Display.

LG Group is making a big bet on FPR technology to stoke out a bigger claim in the global 3D market, currently dominated by SG-type sets made by first such as Samsung and Sony.—Reuters

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### Pandora adds comedy to Internet radio line-up

**Oakland, 6 May**—US Internet radio darling Pandora has added comedy to its line-up of stations that listeners can personalize to their tastes. “We’re excited to say that we are officially in the business of telling jokes,” Pandora founder Tim Westergren said in a blog post online Wednesday. “As with music, we hope that the Comedy Genome Project will let people enjoy comedy they know as well as discover new talent that they love.”

Pandora comedy stations can be customized by genre or comedian, with the service using feedback on what prompts guffaws or gags to fine tune offerings to individual preferences. A team of professional comedians divided thousands of routines by hundreds of comics into categories such as “odd juxtaposition” ticks with openings like “A horse walks into a bar….” Another category was “extensive vamping.” “Adding comedians to the mix has been one of the top requests from our listeners,” Westergren said.—Internet

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### Scientists unlock genetic secret to happiness

**London, 6 May**—Scientists have identified the 5-HTT strand of DNA as the “happiness gene”. The gene helps nerve cells recycle the chemical serotonin, which is known to be linked to mood and depression. It comes in “long” and “short” versions. Individuals who inherit two copies of the “long” variant, one from each parent, tend to be more content than those with other combinations, the study showed.

The latest study could help people born with two versions of the “short” gene.

Behavioural economist Jan-Emmanuel De Neve, from the London School of Economics and Political Science, who led the research, said: “It has long been suspected that this gene plays a role in mental health but this is the first study to show that it is instrumental in shaping our individual happiness levels.

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### Scientists on the sea ice in the Chukchi Sea, off the north coast of Alaska, dispurse equipment on 4 July, 2010, as they prepare to collect data on and below the ice.

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Surgery better for younger prostate patients

WASHINGTON, 6 May — Surgery appears to be a better treatment option for early prostate cancer than “watchful waiting,” particularly for younger patients, according to a Swedish study published Thursday.

In the first clinical trial examining the impact of surgically removing the prostate gland, the team followed 347 randomly chosen patients for the procedure, and closely watched 348 others, according to the study in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The assessment of the nearly 700 men, who aged around 65 — benefitted most from surgery, while going under the knife presented fewer benefits for older patients. “Not everybody benefits from surgery, so individual risks and potential gains have to be assessed on the basis of age, other illnesses, tumour type and patient preferences,” cautioned Anna Bill-Axelson, chief physician at the Department of Surgical Sciences at Sweden’s Uppsala University.—Internet

The nearly 700 men, who aged around 65 years when diagnosed, found that after 15 years, 48 percent of the men in the surgical group died, compared with 58 percent in the closely watched group. For the surgical group, 16 percent died of the prostate cancer, compared to 23 percent for those being watched.

The risk of cancer spreading “beyond the prostate gland was 12 percent lower for those who received surgery.”

The study found that the younger men in the study, those aged around 65 — benefitted most from surgery, while going under the knife presented fewer benefits for older patients. “Not everybody benefits from surgery, so individual risks and potential gains have to be assessed on the basis of age, other illnesses, tumour type and patient preferences,” cautioned Anna Bill-Axelson, chief physician at the Department of Surgical Sciences at Sweden’s Uppsala University.—Internet

Health

ThyssenKrupp announces 10 bln euro divestment plan

BERLIN, 6 May — The biggest German steelmaker, ThyssenKrupp, has announced a 10 billion euro ($14.5 billion) divestment programme which will notably lead to retrenchment in Brazil and in the United States. The main selloff concerns its Stainless Global division, worth some 5.9 billion euros, for which all options (including continuation of the business activities outside the group) are being investigated,” the company said in a statement overnight.

The decision to centre the firm’s activities was taken at a special executive board meeting on Thursday, the company said. “Current and prospective divestments within the context of portfolio alignment agreed upon by the executive board approximate 10 billion and 35,000 employees,” the company added. ThyssenKrupp said it would also be selling its Wisupaca group, specializing in iron casting in the United States, along with its Brazilian Automotive Systems business and other automotive activities.—Internet

Health Tip: Could your child be constipated?

Children may become constipated from a practice experts call “stool withholding” — deliberately not going to the bathroom because of embarrassment, fear of an unpleasant experience, or the desire not to interrupt playtime. The National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse says parents should be aware of these warning signs that a child may be constipated:

* Having difficulty passing stools.
* Displaying posture indicating the child is holding in a stool, including squeezing the buttocks or rocking back and forth.
* Complaining of pain or cramping in the belly.
* Having difficulty passing stools.
* Passing stools that are large, dry or hard.
* Finding stool in your child’s underwear.—Internet

Business

Oil plunges on large scale sell-off

NEW YORK, 6 May— US crude oil price plummeted below 100 dollars a barrel on Thursday as investors revalued risks and chose to take profits and exit the crude market amid a rising dollar, less demand and more supply potential.

Light, sweet crude for June delivery plunged 19.71 dollars, or 8.39 percent, to settle at 99.80 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In London, Brent crude for June delivery also sharply fell by nearly 9 percent and last traded around 110 dollars a barrel.—Xinhua

Gold, silver lose luster

NEW YORK, 6 May — Gold and silver prices plunged Thursday as the lead US metals exchange announced additional increases in trading requirements for silver. Silver for July delivery dropped $3.15, or 8 percent, to $36.24 an ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange, the largest one-day percentage drop since 1 Dec, 2008.

Gold for June delivery plunged $33.90, or 2.2 percent, to $1,481.40 an ounce, the biggest one-day percentage loss since mid-March.

CME Group Inc, owner of Comex and the exchange, said Wednesday it was adding two margin requirement increases, effective at the end of close Thursday and Monday, MarketWatch.com reported.

The exchange has employed margin increases four times since 26 April. The euro was $1.454, down from Wednesday’s $1.463. Against the yen, the dollar was 80.05, compared with Wednesday’s 80.61 yen.

The dollar rose to 44.76 from 44.763 Indian paper. Against the Hong Kong dollar, the US dollar rose to 7.7713 from 7.7703. The Australian dollar was $1.0565, down from Wednesday’s $1.0725.—Internet

Photo
Hijacked Panamanian vessel resumes sailing

**JAKARTA, 6 May—**Indonesia would pay 120 million US dollar for ASEAN infrastructure funds within five years, Indonesian Finance Minister Agus Martowardojo said here on Friday.

Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economy Hatta Rajasa told a Press conference on Friday that ASEAN countries had agreed to raise 480.2 million US dollar for the infrastructure funds.

“Our obligation is to pay 120 million US dollar within five years,” Martowardojo said at the sideline of the 18th ASEAN Summit in Jakarta.

He said that the funds would be very useful amid the plan to establish ASEAN connectivity.

Minister Rajasa said that the 480.2 million US dollar investment was still small and it should be extended.

Ex-Kilpatrick aide testifies to grand jury

**DETROIT, 6 May—**Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick’s top aide testified before a federal grand jury this week but her lawyer said she is not a target of the investigation.

Christine Beatty, who served as Kilpatrick’s chief of staff, had an affair with him while he was mayor and was accused with him of perjury. She appeared before the grand jury Wednesday, The Detroit News reported. Neither Beatty nor her lawyer, Jeffrey Morganroth, would comment on what she said. “I can confirm she was subpoenaed to appear, not as a target or as a subject, but as a witness,” Morganroth said. “She answered all their questions and cooperated fully.” Beatty’s appearance suggests a federal investigation of Kilpatrick’s administration is still being conducted. The mayor has already been indicted on federal corruption charges.

Coleman guilty of killing family

**WATERLOO, 6 May—**The former head of security for Joyce Meyer Ministries was convicted in Illinois of killing his wife and sons Thursday, the second anniversary of their deaths.

Chris Coleman hung his head as the three verdicts of first-degree murder were read, the Belleville News-Democrat reported. As he was led out of the courtroom, about 200 people gathered there cheered the guilty finding.

Coleman said he was working out at a gym when someone broke into his house in Columbia, strangled his wife, Sheri, and their sons, Gavin and Garrett. The killer also left messages on the walls.

Prosecutors said Coleman prepared for the killings for months by sending threatening messages purporting to be from someone wanting to close down the Joyce Meyer Ministry. They said Coleman had been having an affair with his wife’s close friend and wanted to be able to marry her without a divorce, which might have cost him his job with the televangelist. The penalty phase was scheduled to begin Friday. Illinois recently abolished the death penalty so it is likely to be a symbolic exercise.

“If there was ever a case the death penalty, it would be for a father who killed his wife and two young sons,” Ed Parkinson, the prosecutor, said.

Sheri Coleman’s family filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking damages from Joyce Meyer Ministry. Relatives claim in court papers the ministry should have known Coleman was behind the campaign of threats and warned Sheri she was at risk, the St Louis Post-Dispatch reported.—Internet

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Morocco arrests three Marrakesh cafe bomb suspects

**RABAT, 6 May—**Morocco arrested three people over a bomb attack on a cafe in the tourist city of Marrakesh last week that killed 16 people, and said the chief suspect showed “loyalty” to al Qaeda.

The three suspects were all Moroccans, the official news agency quoted the Interior Ministry as saying. Most of the bomb victims were foreign holiday-makers, including eight French people.

The ministry said the chief suspect, who was “well-versed in jihadi ideology and shows loyalty to al Qaeda,” had built and planted two bombs in the cafe, not one as previously believed.

The 28 April blasts were the first such attack in Morocco since coordinated suicide bombings in the commercial capital, Casablanca, in 2003, and added to the challenges facing King Mohammed at a time when he is trying to prevent uprisings breaking out in Morocco similar to those elsewhere in the Arab world.

The Interior Ministry said the chief suspect had previously tried to fight alongside militants in Russia’s turbulent Chechnya republic and in Iraq.

It said he built two remotely detonated bombs using instructions downloaded from the Internet, then dressed like a tourist and planted them in a cafe overlooking Marrakesh’s Jamaa el-Fnaa square.

The bombs ripped through the cafe, which is often packed with tourists.

—Reuters

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**BEIJING, 6 May—**A Panama-registered bulk cargo ship that was hijacked by seven pirates in the Arabian Sea on Thursday resumed sailing at 4:25 am (Beijing time) Friday, according to the China Sea Rescue Centre.

The vessel, named “Full City”, was rescued at 11:25 pm Thursday by a rescue team made up of US and Turkish marines.

The vessel is now heading for its destination port, India’s city of Tucoin, under the escort of Indian naval vessels. It is expected to arrive at the port at 8 am Monday, according to the rescue centre. Pirates attacked the vessel on Thursday about 450 nautical miles off the coast of India’s city of Mumbai. A Chinese Navy convoy fleet was assembled about 750 nautical miles east of the area, the centre said.

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**CHINA, 6 May—**Chinese navy warship, the DDG-171 Haikou destroyer, is seen from French Frigate “Le Floreal”, as it patrols the waters of the Gulf of Aden.—Internet

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**Hijacked Panamanian vessel resumes sailing**

A worker packs an ingot of 99.99 percent pure silver, which weights 30 kilos (66 lbs), at the Krausnokype nonferrous metals plant in Russia’s Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, on 28 March, 2011.—ITAR-TASS

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**EX-KILPATTICK AIDE TESTIFIES TO GRAND JURY**

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**COLEMAN GUILTY OF KILLING FAMILY**

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**People stand near the scene after an explosion rocked the Argana cafe in Marrakesh’s Jamaa el-Fnaa square on 28 April, 2011.**

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Chrysler to close refinancing deal by 24 May

**MILAN**, 6 May— US carmaker Chrysler is planning to close a deal to refinance $7.5 billion of government debt by 24 May, according to details of Chrysler’s offering memorandum to the banks published on Thursday by newspaper Il Sole 24 Ore.

The restructing of debt Chrysler owns to the US and Canadian governments will let it save $200 million a year, chief executive Sergio Marchionne told a gathering of bankers in New York, according to several Italian newspapers.

Last year Chrysler paid $1.2 billion in interest on bailout money received from the governments in 2009. The deal will comprise a credit line for $1.5 billion, eight- and 10-year bonds worth $2.5 billion and $3.5 billion of guaranteed six-year notes aimed at institutional investors, Il Sole 24 Ore said, citing the Chrysler document.

The Big Three US automaker plans to close the deal by 24 May, according to the document. The debt repayment paved the way for Italian group Fiat to hike its 30 percent stake in Chrysler by another 16 percent. Fiat, Italy’s biggest carmaker and part of the country’s top industrial group, aims to add another 5 percent before the end of 2011 to acquire full control of Chrysler.

Chrysler Group is in no rush to go public. Marchionne, who is also chief executive of Fiat, said on Wednesday, adding the US automaker “technically” did not need to raise equity. Fiat shares were up 1.1 percent at 7.255 euros at 0732 GMT, twice the rise in the STOXX Europe 600 autos index.—Reuters

US teen charged with killing two British tourists

**SARASOTA, 6 May**— The US teenager who allegedly killed two British tourists last month as they wandered near a government-subsidized housing development, has been indicted on two counts of first-degree murder and will be tried as an adult.

Sarasota Police chief Mikel Hollaway said in a statement that if convicted, Shawn Tyson faces life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Tyson, 16, was arrested on 17 April for allegedly shooting and killing two British tourists, James Cooper, 25, and James Thomas Kouzaris, 24.

The two men were killed at 3 am (0700 GMT) on 16 April in the city of Sarasota, a resort town on the west coast of Florida. Tyson had been arrested just nine days before allegedly killing Cooper and Kouzaris for aggravated assault with a handgun.

At a Press Conference announcing Tyson’s arrest, Hollaway said he did not address how Tyson was back on the streets so quickly after being arrested on the handgun assault charge.—Internet

Minimum driving age raised to 16

**WELLINGTON, 6 May**— The minimum driving age in New Zealand will be raised to 16 in August after the transport legislation aimed to improve the safety of young drivers and crack down on high-risk drivers was passed in Parliament on Thursday.

New Zealand Transport Minister Steven Joyce said the legislation is a major step forward in the government’s efforts to improve road safety and, ultimately, bring down the road toll.

The Land Transport Amendment Bill introduces a zero-alcohol limit for people aged under 20 and toughens requirements for restricted licences.

It targets repeat drink-drivers by introducing zero-alcohol limits for three years and enabling courts to place a car interim lock on steering wheels.

The bill doubles prison time for drunk, drugged or reckless drivers.—Xinhua

Malaysia exports hit new high of 21 bln USD in March

**KUALA LUMPUR, 6 May**— Malaysia’s exports hit a new high of 64.06 billion ringgit (21.35 billion US dollars) in March 2011, up 7.8 percent year on year. Malaysia announced on Thursday that the exports growth was mainly attributed by higher exports of electrical and electronic products, refined petroleum products, palm oil, crude rubber and chemicals and chemical products.

Imports rose by 12.1 percent year on year to 50.53 billion ringgit (16.8 billion US dollars), bringing the total trade volume in March to 114.59 billion ringgit (38.2 billion US dollars), up 9.6 percent.

On a month-on-month basis, exports in March grew by 23.7 percent while imports rose by 28.9 percent, with the total trade surging by 25.9 percent.—Xinhua

Russian navy ships leave for visit to Singapore, Indonesia

**VLADIVOSTOK, 6 May**— A squadron of the Russian Pacific Fleet had left this port city in Russia’s Far East to visit Singapore and Indonesia, local media reported. Among the ships are the Admiral Panteleyev destroyer and the Koty Krylov salvage tug, a spokesman from the Pacific Fleet said.

The ships are scheduled to reach Singapore on 16 May to take part in the international maritime defence exhibition IMDEX-2011.

They will head for the Indonesian port of Makassar on 20 May to take part in a joint anti-piracy drill with the Indonesian Navy.—Xinhua

AIG posts ongoing loss on debt, quake charges

**NEW YORK, 6 May**—Bailed-out insurer American International Group lost more than $1 billion from its ongoing operations in the first quarter, as the company took a huge charge for the termination of its credit facility with the Federal Reserve.

AIG’s Chartis unit also raked up $864 million in catastrophe losses related to the 11 March earthquake in Japan. The company, one of the top foreign insurers in Japan, had previously warned of substantial quake charges.

AIG shares, which have lost more than 30 percent of their value since late January, fell about 1 percent in after-hours trade to $30.50.

AIG reported a loss from continuing operations of $1.18 billion, or $1.41 per share, compared with a profit on the same basis a year earlier of $2.09 billion, or $2.16 per share.
The facility is of bored pile type at the foundation, of RC type at the lower structure and of RC type at the upper structure for both motor road and railroad.

The clearance of the bridge will be 230 feet wide and 57 feet high. The facility can withstand 60-ton loads.

The estimated cost for the bridge will be K 33,668 million.

With the members of MGEA at Myanmar Gems Museum, Mr. Liu Jianye discussed investment in hotel business in Yangon Region, Mandalay Region and Bagan.

India to attend a workshop in Chennai, Tamilnadu Province of India on 6 and 7 May. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of MFF.

Mr. Liu Jianye had an interview with Superintendent Engineer U Soe Min (Civil) of the project.

He said, “The bridge is being built at the 2900 feet wide defile of Ayeyawady River, so the water course will be safety for watercrafts. At present, the construction tasks of approach piles for railroad on Migyaungye bank have been completed by 87 per cent, and PC girders are being installed. The approach piles for motor road have completed by cent per cent, and then construction of the floor of the facility continues. Approach piles for the railroad on Malun bank have completed over 75 per cent. At present, RC Girders are being installed for the motor road.”

He continued, “The approach motor road on Migyaungye bank will link Thityagauk-Pahtanago road at mile post No. 11/3 and Pyay-Aunglan-Magyaw road at mile post No. 30/1. The approach railroad on Malun bank will be 5.5 miles far from Malun. After that, a plan will be implemented to build 25-mile Malun-Minhlta-TaungU-Kantok Road to link Pathein-Monywa Road.”

Due to construction of the bridge at the place of strong current, ship will have easier drive on their water course and flow of commodities will be swift. As Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) will be strategic not only to local regions but also to foreign countries. As such, construction of the bridge will enable the region to facilitate greater and speedier development.

Sales of Myanmar gems and jewellery hit record

Chinese company keen to invest in hotel sector
NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a Japanese business delegation led by Mr. Surnitaka Fujita of Itochu Corporation at his office here yesterday. Itochu Corporation is based in Yangon. — MNA

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint receives Mr Surnitaka Fujita of Itochu Corporation.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung received Mr. Liu Jianye, President of Shandong Puli Construction Engineering Co., Ltd, and party at his office here this afternoon. They discussed matters related to Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers conservation and providing assistance in shipbuilding by the People’s Republic of China. — MNA

Mon State Chief Minister calls for bribery-, corruption-free justice system

YANGON, 5 May — Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint called on officials and staff of the Mon State Law Office to avoid bribery and corruptions as part of efforts passing sentences in legal cases correctly. At the ceremony to unveil the signboard of the office in Mawlamyine on 3 May, he also urged them to assist in legal cases correctly and lawfully and to digest the constitution and the law. — MNA

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung receives President Mr. Liu Jianye of Shandong Puli Construction Engineering Co., Ltd.—MNA

Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint making address at signboard unveiling ceremony of Mon State Law Office. MNA

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung addresses concluding ceremony of English proficiency skill course. MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Staff of Settlement and Land Records Department are carrying out collection of data for right maps and right sown areas in 34 village-tracts of Myitkyina Township from 19 April to 18 May. Director U Myint Swe of SLRD (Head Office) and officials inspected tasks for collection of right maps and right sown areas in Shweset Ward and Arlam Village-tract on 29 April and Mawphaung, Akye and Hokat village-tract on 30 April. — MNA

Kachin, Kayah, Magway and Shan mark 65th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — In commemoration of 65th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day, ceremonies were observed in Myitkyina of Kachin State, Loikaw of Kayah State, Gangaw of Magway Region and Taungyi of Shan State yesterday. Firefighters showed off fire fighting and rescue drill demonstrations, and outstanding firefighters were awarded at the ceremonies of those region and states. — MNA

Donate blood

Field trips made for right maps and right sown areas in Myitkyina Township

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Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint making address at signboard unveiling ceremony of Mon State Law Office. MNA

Officials of H & T Ministry receive English proficiency skills

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Course on English proficiency skills for officials of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism was concluded at the ministry here today. A total of 20 officials attended the two-week course. At the ceremony to conclude the Course No.1/2001, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung stressed the need for importance of English proficiency skills for employees of the ministry. — MNA

Donate blood

Dimawhso Township of Kayah State marks completion of literacy campaigns

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — According to the census, Dimawhso Township of Kayah State had 66,799 literates out of 67,035 people aged 15 and above. So, there were still 236 illiterates. Yet, literacy campaigns have launched for the remaining illiterate people for 59 days, and the township held a ceremony to mark the completion of literacy campaigns at Ohkhuy Village primary school on 28 April. At the ceremony, officials explained the campaigns and the trainees demonstrated their writing and reading skills. — MNA
Kraft tempers outlook on Starbucks loss

NEW YORK, 6 May—Kraft Foods Inc (KFT.N) reported a better-than-expected first-quarter profit on Thursday, helped by price increases, and said it likely will raise some prices even more this year.

The maker of Cadbury chocolate bars, Oreo cookies and Velveeta cheese also lowered its full-year forecast to reflect the loss of its contract to distribute Starbucks (SBUX.O) coffee in US supermarkets.

Excluding the Starbucks loss and costs related selling Gevalia coffee in its place, Kraft said its outlook for the rest of the year was unchanged.

The first-quarter results included a benefit from commodity hedges, which somewhat insulated Kraft from recent price volatility. The benefit should reverse in coming quarters, Kraft said, as the hedges roll off — a situation that could pressure margins.

Hepatitis C linked to more drug use

ATLANTA, 6 May—Increased US drug use may account for an increase in hepatitis C virus among adolescents and young adults in Massachusetts, federal health officials say.

Public health officials from Massachusetts and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did an analysis of the state’s data that finds although overall declines in HCV infection occurred nationwide and in Massachusetts since the early 1990s, an increase among those ages 15-24 was observed in the state from 2002 to 2009.

The report, published in the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, found increases in rates of newly reported HCV infection among youth in urban, suburban and rural communities across the state — occurring primarily among white non-Hispanics of both genders.

“Injection drug use was the most common risk factor for HCV transmission and this is consistent with other data suggesting drug use in this population has increased in the state, as well as in other parts of the country,” the report said. “The findings underscore the need for enhanced surveillance of HCV infection and intensified prevention efforts targeting adolescents and young adults, particularly those who engage in injection drug use.” Federal health officials said they are working with state and local health departments to determine whether similar trends are occurring in other parts of the country.

Customers are seen at a Starbucks coffee shop which displays their old logo in Paris on 8 March, 2011.—INTERNET

“Costs continue to go up, and so those pressures aren’t abating,” said Morningstar analyst Erin Lash. “(Kraft) operated through the first quarter relatively well, but there’s still several impending headwinds that could offset this trajectory.”

Rival food maker Sara Lee Corp (SLE.N) cut its full-year forecast earlier on Thursday after price increases hurt sales volume.

“We are optimistic about the ability of our brands to withstand the increased prices given the investments we’ve made in them, but we are somewhat cautious given the challenging economic environment,” Kraft Chief Executive Irene Rosenfeld told Reuters.

Second mine accident reported in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 6 May—Three unauthorized miners have been killed in an abandoned opal mine in western Mexico, the Secretariat of Economy reported late Thursday. The illegal miners were trapped after a wall in the mine collapsed, the secretariat said via its twitter account. Rescue work was unsuccessful at the mine, located in the town of Hostotipaquillo, west of Guadalajara. “The municipal authorities are doing an excellent job in rescuing the trapped people. Unfortunately, there is no good news,” the secretariat said.

Secretary of Economy Bruno Ferrari is expected to travel to the mine Friday. The accident came two days after a gas explosion Tuesday at a coal mine in northern Mexico trapped 14 miners. Six of the miners have been found dead and rescue efforts have been temporarily suspended.

Kenya police seize one ton of ivory

NAIROBI, 6 May—An official says Kenyan police have seized over one ton of illegal ivory destined for Nigeria at the country’s main airport.

Joseph Ngisa, the officer in charge of criminal investigations in the country’s airports, said they impounded 84 elephant tasks on concealed in metal containers on Thursday.

Residents are seen walking past a line of solar power panels in Shenyang, in northeast China’s Liaoning Province. China has more than doubled its target for solar power capacity to 50 gigawatts by 2020, state media said, as the world’s largest polluter steps up efforts to boost clean energy sources.

INTERNET

5.2 magnitude deep earthquake hit New Zealand’s central North Island

WELLINGTON, 6 May—A deep earthquake hit New Zealand’s central North Island on Friday, causing no damage and casualties.

The 5.2 magnitude tremor hit 20 km west of Rotorua at 3:59 pm (0359 GMT), New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Science (GNS Science) said.

The quake, at a depth of 170 km, was probably felt in east-central North Island.

6.1 magnitude quake rocks Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 May—An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 jolted eastern parts of Indonesia on Friday, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency reported here.

The quake struck at 13:46 pm Jakarta Time (0646 GMT) with the epicenter at 75 km Gorontalo of North Sulawesi and with at a depth of 35 km under sea bed, official of the agency Boko Nurdianto told Xinhua by phone.

The intensity of the quake was felt at 4 MMI (Modified Mercally Intensity) in Gorontalo and 3 MMI in Luwu of North Sulawesi, he said.

The US Geological Survey reported the earthquake at a magnitude of 5.8. The epicentre, with a depth of 85.90 km, was initially determined to be at 0.1328 degrees south latitude and 122.9065 degrees east longitude.

Customers are seen at a Starbucks coffee store which displays their old logo in Paris on 8 March, 2011.—INTERNET

A captured short-finned pilot whale is measured during the ‘Art In The Streets’ exhibit at the Guggenheim Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, California on 5 May, 2011. The exhibit is the first major historical exhibition of graffiti and street art to be organized by an American museum.

INTERNET

Choose your language: English

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Secretary of Economy Bruno Ferrari is expected to travel to the mine Friday. The accident came two days after a gas explosion Tuesday at a coal mine in northern Mexico trapped 14 miners. Six of the miners have been found dead and rescue efforts have been temporarily suspended.

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$80K motorbike stolen in US found in Philippines

MANILA, 6 May— An $80,000 motorcycle stolen in Texas last year from Hollywood screenwriter Skip Woods has been recovered in the southern Philippines, officials said Thursday.

The custom-made chopper was found Tuesday by police in Cagayan de Oro City, said Jose Justo Yap, regional director for the National Bureau of Investigation. Woods, a collector of custom-made vehicles, wrote the screenplay for “Swordfish,” “Hitman” and “X-Men Origins: Wolverine.”

His chopper was among 14 motorcycles, three all-terrain vehicles, two SUVs, a sports car, a shotgun and ammunition for assault rifles recovered by police in raids in Cagayan de Oro and nearby Bukidnon Province, Misamis Oriental Provincial police Chief Graciano Mijares said. The US FBI sought assistance in the recovery of Woods’ motorcycle, Yap said. An American private investigator representing Woods, said the screenwriter was surprised that his motorcycle, which was stolen from the parking lot of his condominium in Houston, Texas, ended up half way around the world. —Internet

FBI: 20 suspicious letters mailed to DC schools

WASHINGTON, 6 May— The FBI now says it is investigating at least 20 suspicious letters with white powder that have been delivered to schools in Washington.

Christopher Combs, who oversees domestic terrorism investigations for the FBI’s Washington field office, tells WRC-TV that more letters could still be found.

Authorities say there are no indications that the letters contained any hazardous material, and there are no reported injuries or illnesses. Combs says they are being taken to a lab where the material inside will be examined.

He says the FBI has an open case related to similar letters in another jurisdiction, though he didn’t say which one. He says none of those letters contained harmful material. The first letters in DC began popping up at schools Thursday.

A Qatar Airways plane is parked on the tarmac at Doha Airport. Qatar Airways is in advanced negotiations to place a giant order for 60 airliners built by the European firm Airbus. —INTERNET

US Ambassador to Mexico sets date to depart

MEXICO CITY, 6 May— US Ambassador Carlos Pascual will leave Mexico by 18 May as a result of his resignation two months ago amid furor over leaked diplomatic cables that angered the Mexican government. Pascual will take a job on that date as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s special envoy and coordinator for international energy affairs. US Embassy spokesman Alex Featherstone said Thursday night.

“One of his first tasks will be designing a new Bureau for Energy Resources that will integrate energy security with the conduct of US foreign policy,” Featherstone wrote in a message announcing the plans. —Internet

Vietnamese women dressed in the traditional “ao dai” play traditional music at the National Convention Centre, the venue for the 44th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), in Hanoi on 6 May, 2011. The meeting takes place in Hanoi from 3 to 6 May.—INTERNET

S Korea’s oldest nuclear reactor to resume operation

SEOUL, 6 May— South Korea’s oldest nuclear reactor will resume operation following an extensive safety checkup, the science ministry here said Friday.

The Kori reactor, which began operation in 1978 in South Korea’s southeastern coastal town of Gori, was shut down in April due to malfunction of electric circuits and underwent an inspection amid safety concerns following Japan’s nuclear debacle unleashed by an earthquake and tsunami in March.

With the government green light, the Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co, an operator of the 33-year-old Kori reactor, is expected to soon resume power generation, local reports said.

The government, meanwhile, also plans to spend some 1 trillion won (922 million US dollars) for the next five years on improving safety of all 21 atomic power reactors in the country.

Under the current government blueprint, South Korea will continue running the nation’s oldest reactor through 2017. —Xinhua

Africa loses $12 bln a year to malaria

CAPE TOWN, 6 May— Malaria costs Africa $12 billion (eight million euros) a year in lost productivity, an expense that businesses can reduce by investing in prevention schemes, said a study released on Thursday.

“Malaria is bad for business. The disease is responsible for decreased productivity, employee absenteeism and increased health care spending and can negatively impact a company’s reputation,” said the report by the Roll Back Malaria campaign.

“This heavy burden has serious impacts on businesses and economies, costing the African continent $12 billion annually in lost productivity,” it said.

The report, presented at the World Economic Forum for Africa in Cape Town, analysed economic impact of malaria prevention and programmes at three companies, which cut overall medical spending in company clinics and reduced absenteism.

“For these companies, investing in malaria prevention and control for workers and their dependants was cost effective, resulting in increasing their bottom line, producing an estimated rate of return of 28 percent under very conservative assumptions,” the study said.

Malaria hurts local economies by reducing workers’ ability to save, while straining public health budgets and reducing tax revenues.

About 90 percent of malaria deaths each year occur in Africa and 92 percent of those are children aged under five.

Shareholders listen to Martin Blessing, CEO of Germany’s Commerzbank, as he delivers his speech during the bank’s annual shareholder meeting in Frankfurt, 6 May, 2011. Robust first-quarter results and a positive outlook could put Commerzbank in a stronger position as it asks shareholders to approve plans to repay state aid and swallow a dilution of their holdings at its AGM on Friday. —INTERNET

A field is harvested for grain. World food prices remained almost stable in April, though tension surrounded cereal prices and climate conditions in coming months will be decisive, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Thursday.—INTERNET
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SEA CORAL VOY NO (26)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA CORAL VOY NO (26) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.5.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-1 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (089)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (089) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NP GLORY 4 VOY NO (003)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV NP GLORY 4 VOY NO (003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Illegal mining kills three, injures dozens in Ghana

ACRA, 6 May—Three illegal gold miners died in an explosion at a mine site at Kenyase in Ghana’s central Bono Ahafo region, about 400 km north of the capital Accra, a local source told Xinhua on Friday.

An electric plant which was used by the illegal miners developed a fault at dawn and caught fire which ignited explosives at the site, killing the three instantly and leaving dozens of others with various degrees of injury.

Families of the injured rushed to the scene to take them to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Local reports said a number of young Ghanaians who had previously died in illegal mining activities in abandoned mine shafts, which mostly caved in on them, burying them alive.—Xinhua

Crashes tops cause of groundworkers deaths

ATLANTA, 6 May—One in every 30 US occupational fatalities from traumatic injuries between 2003 and 2008 occurred in grounds maintenance workers, health officials say.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report says 1,142 ground maintenance workers died from job-related injuries from 2003 to 2008.

“While fatalities among Hispanics or Latinos were not disproportionately higher than deaths among non-Hispanics or Latinos, most of the deaths among Hispanics or Latinos fell out of every six — had been born outside the United States and Hispanic or Latino workers who died were nine years younger, on average, than non-Hispanic or Latino workers who died,” the report said. “Transportation incidents and tree work were leading causes for the fatalities yet many deaths resulted from falls, electrocutions and drowning.”

Enforcement of regulations, outreach and training are vital for preventing such deaths, including culturally meaningful safety training for Hispanic or Latino workers who comprise much of the grounds maintenance workforce, federal officials say.
Berlin swimming pool hosts underwater opera

A specially composed opera with a difference premiered in a Berlin swimming pool this week, with singers performing in and out and even under the water.

“Aquaria Palaoa” is the brainchild of Claudia Herr, a champion swimmer in her youth before turning to singing, who plays the lead role, diving into the Stadtbad Neukoelln pool in her green evening dress.

With the help of oxygen tanks strapped to her back, Herr sings underwater, with the whale-like sounds she produces transmitted onto speakers sitting around the swimming pool with the help of special microphones.

Her voice and those of other singers — who also sing underwater but without oxygen tanks — are mixed with sounds recorded 100 metres (330 feet) under an ice shelf in Antarctica. The orchestra stays dry, seated around the pool. The opera tells the story of a young woman looking for the elixir of eternal youth.

Schwarzenegger might ‘Cry Macho’ as film return

LOS ANGELES, 6 May—Arnold Schwarzenegger has added another project on his to-do list as he returns to Hollywood after serving as California governor.

Schwarzenegger spokesman Alan Mendelsohn said Thursday that the actor plans to star in the drama “Cry Macho” for Academy Award-winning producer Albert Ruddy (“The Godfather,” “Million Dollar Baby”).

It’s one of several projects Schwarzenegger has in the works, including a “Terminator” tale and the crime saga “The 17-year-old.”

Mendelsohn said the timing has not yet been worked out but has an idea of when he will start work on “Cry Macho,” which he said is being put together quickly.

‘Home Alone’ home priced at $2.4m

CHICAGO, 6 May—The 14-room Illinois mansion featured in the 1990 Macaulay Culkin comedy “Home Alone” is being sold for $2.4 million, the Chicago Tribune reported Thursday.

John and Cynthia Abendshien bought the house in 1988 for $875,000. They told the newspaper they decided to sell it because their children are grown and they don’t need as much space.

“The $2.4 million isn’t just because of its cinematic history,” the Tribune quoted the home’s listing agent, Marissa Hopkins of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, as saying. “It really is a residential masterpiece.”

The 4,250 square-foot, red-brick house in Winnetka boasts four bedrooms, 3 baths and a large screened-in porch.

In “Home Alone,” Culkin plays a boy whose harried family inadvertently leaves for vacation without him.

Guinness Records: Smokey the cat is really loud

It’s official: Smokey the cat has roared her way into Guinness World Records having achieved the loudest purr by a domestic cat.

Smokey said Thursday the gray-and-white tabby earned her place with record-setting 67.7 decibels. In a video on the cat’s website, the 12-year-old, ordinary-size feline purred with a sound akin to the cooing of an angry dove.

Smokey first rose to prominence in February, when her owner, Ruth Adams, ran a local competition for the most powerful purr. A community college recorded the purr and submitted it to Guinness.

Smokey says the loudest animal sounds are the low-frequency pulses made by blue whales and fin whales when they communicate with each other — sounds that reach 188 decibels. By comparison, a lawnmower is 90 decibels.

In this handout file photo released by Northampton College on 25 March, 2011, Smokey, a gray and white tabby cat prepares to receive a treat from owner Ruth Adams, in Northampton, England.

Guinness World Records says the loudest animal sounds are the low-frequency pulses made by blue whales and fin whales when they communicate with each other — sounds that reach 188 decibels. By comparison, a lawnmower is 90 decibels.

Brazil trafficker fingered thanks to birth defect

You could say his fingerprints — all 12 of them — were all over the crime. An accused drug-trafficker was nabbed by police in Brazil’s southern state of Santa Catarina after they confirmed his identity through the betrayal of a rare birth defect: six fingers on each hand.

“We had indications that it was him, but because he presented his brother’s papers as identification we had no proof,” police commissioner Enio de Oliveira Matos told Globo’s news website G1. “Given this peculiarity, we requested information from the Institute of Identification in the state of Parana, where he was born, and was told of a young woman looking for the elixir of eternal youth.

“This picture released by the Civil Police of Santa Catarina, south of Brazil, shows the hands of a drug-trafficker recently identified because of having six fingers in each hand, with this feature, it was possible to confirm his identity.”

G1 published photographs of the hands of the detained man, who had been wanted for drug trafficking in the state of Mato Grosso.

‘Songs’ raises $5m for Japanese Red Cross

NEW YORK, 6 May—Sales of the compilation CD “Songs For Japan” have raised $5 million for Japan earthquake and Pacific tsunami relief, Legacy Recordings said.

Proceeds from the album are being donated to the Japanese Red Cross Society, which is providing relief to those affected by March’s devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

More than 500,000 digital and physical copies of “Songs For Japan” have been sold.

The album includes tracks by John Lennon, U2, Bob Dylan, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Lady Gaga, Beyonce, Bruno Mars, Katy Perry, Rihanna, Justin Timberlake, Madonna, David Guetta, Eminem, Bruce Springsteen and many others.

Schwarzenegger charged over Justin Bieber egg throwing

SYDNEY, 6 May—An Australian teenager was charged with breaking into the roof of a concert arena so he could throw eggs at Canadian pop sensation Justin Bieber.

The 17-year-old heartthrob, touring Australia, has been mobbed by screaming girls at sold-out shows, but had eggs thrown at him when performing his first single “One Time” at a concert in Sydney on Friday.
MADRID, 6 May — Novak Djokovic equalled Ivan Lendl’s 1986 record of a 29-0 winning start to a season when he reached the Madrid Masters quarter-finals. The Serb second seed on Thursday cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 thrashing of Spaniard Guillermo Garcia-Lopez which took less than an hour to extend his overall winning streak to 31, stretching the best football in the world.” Turning his attentions to his own team, Zanetti insisted this season has not been a complete write-off. Last year Inter won an unprecedented treble in Italian football but their Champions League defence came to an end at the quarter-final stage in a humiliating 3-3 aggregate defeat to Schalke 04, themselves threshed 6-1 by United in the semi-finals. — Internet

Inter captain says United can win Champions League

ROME, 6 May — Manchester United are capable of beating Barcelona to win the Champions League, according to Inter Milan captain Javier Zanetti. The Argentine lifted the trophy last season after his side, under Jose Mourinho, dethroned the then reigning champions Barcelona in the semi-finals. Barcelona beat United in the 2009 final in Rome, thus depositing the English champions who had beaten Chelsea in Moscow the year before.

“I think the Manchester side of this year could take revenge for the Champions League final lost in Rome,” he told reporters.

“But it’s not an easy task given that Barcelona are certainly the team that plays the best football in the world.”

Djokovic equals Lendl mark, Murray, Wozniacki crash

MADRID, 6 May — Unheralded Sporting Braga edged domestic rivals Benfica 1-0 in a nerve-jangling semi-final second leg on Thursday to set up an all-Portuguese Europa League final with league champions FC Porto. Braga’s success saw the club from northern Portugal advance on away goals after a 2-2 aggregate draw and thwarted neutrals’ hopes of a clash between traditional rivals Porto and Benfica in the final in Dublin on 18 May.

Domingos Paciencia’s side, runners-up to Benfica in last season’s Portuguese championship, will be appearing in their first ever European final. In stark contrast, two-time European champions Porto are bidding to complete a treble, having already sewn up the Portuguese league title and reached the final of the Portuguese Cup on 22 May.— Internet

Manny Pacquiao camp stresses need for patience in Mosley bout

LAS VEGAS, 6 May — Manny Pacquiao’s trainer Freddie Roach has one nagging concern ahead of the Filipino’s WBO welterweight title defense against Shane Mosley on Saturday. While eight-times world champion Pacquiao has been installed as an odds-on favorite by Las Vegas bookmakers for the scheduled 12-round bout, Roach believes his fighter’s strategy during the first five rounds will be decisive.

“If Manny makes the mistake of attacking Shane without setting it up first, he will walk into a counter-shot,” Roach told reporters at the MGM Grand on Thursday. “That’s my biggest concern. “When Shane is on the ropes trying to set up the counter-shot, Manny knows the move to make. He does it.

Haas gets off to a hot start at Quail Hollow

CHARLOTTE, 6 May—Of all the times Bill Haas has played Quail Hollow, he never had a round quite like this. Haas had stress-free birdies on all the par 5s and did little wrong on the rest of the holes Thursdays during the Wells Fargo Championship, matching the tournament record for lowest opening round with an 8-under 64 for a two-shot lead. “I’ve got good feelings around this place,” Haas said.

It was his best score by four shots at Quail Hollow on the PGA Tour, and way better than two dozen rounds he played as a kid when he would tag along with his father, Jay Haas, on the special trips they made to the course. Haas had a two-shot lead over David Tom and Jonathan Byrd, who each had a 66 in the morning when it was barely above 40 degrees at the start of the tournament with a north wind that is uncommon for this tournament. — Internet

FIFA investigates match-fixing claims

LONDON, 6 May — Football’s ruling body FIFA is investigating claims that over 300 matches on three continents were influenced by match-fixers, according to The Daily Telegraph. FIFA suspects match officials were paid as little as $10,000 to help engineer specific results in international friendly matches and European club games, netting fixers hundreds of millions of dollars on Asian betting markets. “The threat from match-fixing to the integrity of the global game is significant,” Chris Eaton, FIFA’s head of security, confirmed to the British newspaper. — Internet

Del Piero signs Juve extension

ROME, 6 May — Veteran forward Alessandro Del Piero on Thursday signed a one-year contract extension with Juventus keeping him at the club next season. Del Piero, 36, has been at Juve since 1993, winning five Serie A titles, one Italian Cup and the Champions League in 1996. He also won the 2005 and 2006 titles with the club but they were stripped of those and relegated after being found guilty of match-fixing, allowing Del Piero to add the Serie B crown to his collection in 2007.

“I’m enjoying myself, I’m happy to be here today as it’s what I wanted for next year,” said Del Piero. “It wasn’t difficult to reach an agreement because there wasn’t much to discuss.”

He played 91 times for Italy, scoring 27 goals and was part of the squad that lifted the World Cup in 2006.— Internet

United target Varane in no hurry over Lens future

LENS, 6 May — Lens’ 18-year-old defender Raphael Varane, a reported target for Manchester United, said on Thursday that he was not yet to make a decision about his future. “I’m not worrying myself about this subject,” said Varane, who will sit exams for his French baccalaureat this year. “I know that I’m being followed, but for the time being, I’ve made no decision. I’ve not even discussed this with the president (Germain Martel) yet.”

Lens’ are currently second-bottom in the French first division, nine points from safety with only five matches to play, but Varane says that even a drop into Ligue 2 would not necessarily force him to leave Stade Felix-Bollaert. “It’s a league in which you learn things and it could allow me to gain playing time,” said Varane, who made his debut for Lens this season and has since been capped at-under-21 level.

Bill Haas

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In the women’s event, world number one Caroline Wozniacki lost to Germany’s Julia Goerges for the second time in little more than a week while French champion Francesca Schiavone and Roland Garros runner-up Samantha Stosur also went out. Goerges, who saw off Wozniacki in the Stuttgart final last week, enjoyed a 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 win and next plays Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, who upset Stosur 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

Veteran forward Alessandro Del Piero

Novak Djokovic of Serbia

United target Raphael Varane

Inter Milan captain Javier Zanetti

Braga’s defender Silvio (L) vies with Benfica’s forward Nicolas Gaitan (R) during their UEFA Europa League football match at Braga Stadium in Braga.— Internet

Braga set up all-Portuguese Europa final with Porto

PORTO, 6 May — Unheralded Sporting Braga edged domestic rivals Benfica 1-0 in a nerve-jangling semi-final second leg

Together with Scot fourth seed Andy Murray, securing a 6-4, 6-2 win in 90 minutes.Murray’s temper boiled over with the seed warned for audible obscenities from early on in the proceedings as Bellucci won the last four games to advance to the last eight. But the British player wasn’t too down-hearted with his form.

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WEATHER
Friday, 6th May, 2011
Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, rains or thunder showers have been widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, fairly widespread in Bago and Tanintharyi Regions, Mon State, scattered in Lower Sagain and Mandalay Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and isolated rain or thunder showers in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay Region isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagain and Ayeyawady Regions.

Evander Holyfield pose Heavyweight Champion

COPENHAGEN, 6 May — At the age of 48, Evander Holyfield won’t give up on his hopes of regaining the world heavyweight title. The former undisputed champion resumes his hopes for another title bout in the Danish capital. “My goal is to be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world ... again,” Holyfield (43-10-2) said. In his last ring appearance, Holyfield was cut above the left eye by an accidental head butt in his fight with Sherman Williams in January. The bout was ruled a no-contest. This time, trainer Tommy Brooks predicts Holyfield will beat Nielsen in two rounds. “I think Evander is in a much better advantage of that,” Brooks said.—Internet

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MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule
(7-5-2011) (Saturday)

Transmissions
Local - (09:00am ~ 11:00am)MST
Oversea Transmission - (7-5-11 09:30 am - 8-5-11 09:30 am)MST

Local Transmission
* Opening
* News
* EFR Report: Your Second Home at Ngwe Haung Beach
* News
* Myanmar DVD “Love into Love”
* News
* Youth of the Future (Swimming) (Episode-8)
* News
* Ceremony of Pouring Water on Bo Tree of Bago

Oversea Transmission
* Opening
* News
* EFR Report: Your Second Home at Ngwe Haung Beach
* News
* Myanmar DVD “Love into Love”
* News
* Youth of the Future (Swimming) (Episode-8)
* News
* Ceremony of Pouring Water on Bo Tree of Bago
* News
* Short and Documentary Film Festival of Hyderabad
* News
* 100% Myanmar
* Music Gallery
* News
* “Secret Place for Yummy food” Coconut Rice
* News
* Historical Kyaukse and its Environs
* Myanmar Movie “Life is struggling”

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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

Kayah State marks concluding of summer paddy cultivation

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — A ceremony to mark the concluding of summer paddy cultivation (2010-2011) of Kayah State took place at the field of farmer U Bya Yal in Htaynghalya village in Loikaw on 30 April.

Kayah State ministers attended the ceremony and the state manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service explained 14 scientific agricultural techniques for high yields. Then, those present viewed the booths of MAS. — MNA

MHMF accomplishes Mt. Nat Ma mission

NAV PYI TAW, 6 May — Members of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation had successfully scaled 10200 feet high Mt. Nat Ma in Kanpetlet Township in Chin State during the period from 11 to 19 April. They started hiking to the Mt.Nat Ma from Mindat.

The group was comprised of 354 members—201 men and 153 women—from MHMF, University of Medicine-1 (Yangon), University of Medicine (Mandalay), University of Dental Medicine (Yangon), University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay), University of Nursing (Yangon), Yangon University, Dagon University, Institute of Economics (Yangon), University of Foreign Languages (Yangon), University of Foreign Languages (Mandalay), East University (Yangon), Hmhinada University, Maubin University, Mawlamyine University, Myer University, Yadanaob University, University of Distance Education (Mandalay), Kyauk University, Taunggyi University, Monywa University, University of Distance Education (Monywa), Myanmar Maritime University (Yangon), Technological University (Mandalay), University of Veterinary Science, University of Forestry, University of Agriculture, Government Technological College (Yangon), Cooperative College (Yangon) and National Management College (Yangon).

Members of MHMF on top of Mt. Nat Ma.—MNA

Forest fire put out by 5,000 firefighters in northeast China

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Hijacked Panamanian vessel resumes sailing

Berlin swimming pool hosts underwater opera

MNA