Established 1914
Volume XIX, Number 37                                               11th Waning of Kason 1373 ME                   Saturday, 28 May, 2011

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

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

Region Government to hold coordination meetings for effectively carrying out respective tasks and to take responsibility for its tasks

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits research booths of Yangon University, Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna)

YANGON, 27 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Union Ministers and departmental heads, arrived here from Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm today.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and region ministers.

At the meeting hall of Yangon Region Government, the Vice-President accompanied by Union Minister for Forestry U Win Tun and Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan met the Region Chief Minister and region ministers.

In his address, the Vice-President said he was glad to meet the Region Chief Minister and region ministers. In accord with the constitution, the Union Government and the region and state governments have emerged. The respective governments have duty, authority and responsibility.

Region and State governments are regional administrative institutions which can quickly respond to the requirements of respective regions and states, seeing what is happening in the region. Yangon Region is a populous area which maintains substantial external contacts. The Region Government is striving for development of Yangon Region.

In so doing, the Region Government is to hold coordination meetings for effectively carrying out respective tasks and to take responsibility for its tasks. The Region Government is to report its endeavours to respective Union Ministries on time. As the government has planned to grow 30 million saplings this rainy season, Yangon Region is to cultivate the designated number of saplings and to nurture these saplings. In conclusion, the Vice-President urged those present to keep Yangon clean and pleasant as a symbol for other cities. Union Minister U Win Tun reported on arrangements of the Ministry of Forestry to grow 30 saplings.

Chief Minister U Myint Swe submitted a report on arrangements for planting 1.5 million saplings—1.2 million saplings of Ministry of Forestry and 300,000 (See page 8)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at Universities’ Science Research Department.—MNA

Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) Football Stadium on Waizayanta Street in Thingangyun Township in Yangon.—MNA
Make sure that every school-age child enrols

It is the duty of the brilliant and patriotic youth to shape a bright future of the nation. Now, the Education Ministry has designated the period from 25 to 31 May as school enrolment week. So, all parents are duty-bound to make sure that all school-age children enrol.

The ministry has already arranged to provide exercise books free of charge for basic primary students at the school opening season in 2011.

Parents must send their children to school. The State is making a collaborative effort with parents to enable all school-age children to pursue education and to make them happy at school so that they can complete basic education one step after another.

Parents must leave their children to teachers for their education in order that they can become polite and good citizens. Teachers on their part are to train the younger generation not only to improve their education but also to promote their spirit and discipline. Only then will they become good citizens.

To ensure that schoolchildren are happy at school, priority must be given to keeping school and its environs clean and tidy. Parents therefore are urged to cooperate in making sure that every school-age child goes to school.

Myanmar to take part in 26 sports in 26th SEA Games

YANGON, 27 May — To participate in 26 of 56 kinds of sports in 26th SEA Games 2011 to be hosted by the Republic of Indonesia, athletes of respective sports federations are throwing themselves heart and soul into training.

Categories include swimming, archery, track and field, billiards, snooker, boxing, canoe, chess, cycling, men’s soccer, golf, Judo, Karatedo, Taekwondo, western boat racing, yachting, shooting, table tennis, Taekwondo, tennis, traditional boat racing, men’s volleyball, weightlifting, Wushu, badminton, and basketball. — MNA

Steel bowls, cash donated for abbots of Uppatasanti Pagoda, hilly and border area missionary

YANGON, 27 May — A ceremony to donate cash and bowls to missionary abbots from Uppatasanti Pagoda, hilly and border regions was held at Zabuthuri Breikman in Mayangon Township this morning.

Patron of Hilly Missionary Theravada Buddhist Nuggaha Association Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung accepted 105 steel bowls for Uppatasanti Pagoda donated by Mr Tongriodjo Anagkasa through U Win Pe (Myitta Centre).

Moreover, Chairman of the association Dr Khin Shwe accepted 100 steel bowls for hilly region missionary abbots and Director-General U Khaing Aung of Department for Promotion and Protection of the Sasana, K 1 million.

Later, the Union Minister spoke words of thanks.

Workshop on education sector concluded

The closing ceremony of workshop on promotion of education sector of Ministry of Education in progress. — MNA

MCDC provides cash assistance, school uniforms, stationery

NAY PI TAW, 27 May — Mandalay City Development Committee provided cash assistance, school uniforms and stationery for the children of its staff at the city hall on 25 May. Mandalay Mayor Development Affairs Minister U Phone Zaw Han spoke on the occasion.

Next, he visited Zaycho Market and inspected the stone crusher of MCDC in Kyaukchaw region and tarmacking of Mandalay circular road between Payantaw Creek Bridge and 35th Street. — MNA

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
Two dead as Typhoon Songda leaves Philippines

MADRID, 27 May—Typhoon Songda is leaving the Philippines with two people dead and tons of crops and property destroyed.

Benito Ramos, executive officer of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, identified the two casualties as Jaime Tontillo, 70, and Emmanuel Macaro, 27.

Songda also damaged 11.46 million pesos (263,448 US dollars) worth of crops and properties.

Ramos said Songda affected 67,514 families in eastern and southern Philippines. Of the affected population, 53,792 families are from the Bicol region where authorities effected a pre-emptive evacuation of people who are living in flood and landslide prone areas.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Songda is moving towards the north, and as of 1 pm, local time, is now located 200 kilometres east of Aparri, Cagayan. PAGASA expects Songda to exit Philippine territory early Sunday. —Xinhua

29 dead after drug gangs battle in west Mexico

MORELIA, 27 May—A gunbattle between rival drug gangs in western Mexico left 29 bodies in fake military uniforms heaped across a roadway and inside bullet-riddled vehicles in the Pacific coast state of Nayarit, the army said Thursday.

The bodies, all male, were found Wednesday scattered around 14 shot-up pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles, two of which had bulletproofing.

Television images of the scene near the town of Ruiz showed what appeared to have been a convoy of cartel vehicles that was ambushed or engaged by another column of gunmen on a stretch of rural highway. Military-style boots, bulletproof vests, hand grenades and thousands of rounds of ammunition were found at the scene.

Federal and state officials gave conflicting reports on the incident.

Nayarit State police said officers responding to reports of a kidnapping found four wounded men at the scene of the shootout. One injured person died later, and three remain at the hospital, Nayarit state officials said.—Internet

Spain: forest fire on Ibiza still burning wildly

MAHON, 27 May—A Spanish official in Ibiza says some 800 people, including British and German tourists, have been evacuated from homes and hotels because of the worst forest fire ever recorded on the Mediterranean resort island.

Regional government emergency situations spokeswoman Asuncion Saiz says the fire that started Wednesday has now burned about 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) of pine forest in the north of the island.

No one has been hurt. Some 300 local people were evacuated from their homes, and tour operators moved about 500 tourists from their hotels to other lodgings, although Saiz insisted that at no time were they in danger from the fire.—Internet

Gunmen kill Iraqi officer tasked with purging Saddamists

BAGHDAD, 27 May—The head of a committee tasked with rooting out Iraqis with ties to Saddam Hussein’s deposed regime and who was once arrested for alleged ties to Shiites militias was shot to death late Thursday in Baghdad, officials said.

Ali al-Lami was a divisive figure in Iraqi politics who had close ties to neighboring Iran’s Shiite Muslim government and was known for the vigor with which he tried to root out Saddam-era loyalists from all levels of Iraqi government. He also ran adulf of the US after he was implicated in a bombing that killed Americans.

His role last year in trying to oust hundreds of Sunni candidates from running in the parliamentary election due to alleged ties to the Saddam regime fueled criticism that Iraqi Shiites, backed by Iran, were trying to sideline Sunnis from power and threatened to re-ignite sectarian tensions.—Internet

At least three soldiers killed in suicide bomb attack in west of Baghdad

RAMADI, 27 May—At least three soldiers were killed and six others wounded in a suicide bomb attack against a crowd of Iraqi army soldiers in west of Baghdad on Thursday, a local police source said.

The attack took place in the afternoon when a suicide bomber blew up his explosive-belt among a crowd of Iraqi soldiers in al-Shuhadaa neighbourhood in Abu Ghraib area, some 20 km west of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Iraqi security forces cordoned off the scene, as ambulances evacuated the victims to nearby hospitals and medical centres, the source said.

Violence in the country underscore the challenges that the Iraqi security forces are facing as they struggle to restore stability and normalcy in Iraqi cities about eight months before the departure of all American forces by the end of 2011.—Xinhua

Seven US troops among nine NATO dead in Afghanistan

KABUL, 27 May—Nine NATO service members were killed Thursday in Afghanistan, including seven US troops among eight who died when a powerful bomb exploded in a field where they were patrolling on foot, officials said.

Two Afghan policemen also died and two others were wounded in the explosion in the mountainous Shorabak District of Kandahar Province. 12 miles (19 kilometres) from the Pakistani border, said Gen Abdul Raziq, chief of the Afghan border police in the province. “Two months ago we cleared this area of terrorists, but still they are active there,” Raziq said.

The Taleban claimed responsibility for the blast. —AFP

Afghan relatives, right, of a wounded labourer push his trolley in the hospital in Kandahar south of Kabul, Afghanistan on 24 May, 2011.—INTERNET
Space telescope Spitzer observes crystal “rain” in outer clouds of infant star

Los Angeles, 27 May—NASA’s space telescope Spitzer has observed olivine falling down like rain on a burgeoning star, it was announced on Thursday. This is the first time such crystals have been observed in the dusty clouds of gas that collapse around forming stars, according to NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

Spitzer’s infrared detectors spotted the crystal rain around a distant, sun-like embryonic star, or protostar, referred to as HD97048 in the constellation Orion, said JPL in Pasadena, Los Angeles. In the form of forsterite, the crystals belong to the olivine family of silicate minerals and can be found everywhere from a periodot gemstone to the green sand beaches of Hawaii to remote galaxies, JPL said.—Xinhua

Sony to begin restoring PlayStation network in Asia

Tokyo, 27 May—Sony Corp said on Friday it would begin the restoration of its PlayStation videogame network in Asia, including Japan, on Saturday, more than a month after a massive security breach leaked details on tens of millions of accounts.

The company, which has already begun restoring services in other parts of the world, said it would also offer customers in Asia a new identity protection service.

Sony said the previous day it was keeping its target of restoring all PlayStation network services by the end of May, with any delay beyond that not likely to be more than a few days.—Reuters

US scientists develop new clean energy technology

Los Angeles, 27 May—US scientists have developed a new clean energy known as Direct Methanol Fuel Cell for future Pentagon and commercial applications, it was announced on Thursday.

This novel fuel cell technology uses liquid methanol as a fuel to produce electrical energy, and does not require any fuel processing, according to NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which partnered with the University of Southern California (USC) in developing the technology.

Pure water and carbon dioxide are the only byproducts of the fuel cell, and no pollutants are emitted, said JPL in Pasadena, Los Angeles.

Direct Methanol Fuel Cells offer several advantages over other current fuel cell systems, especially with regard to simplicity of design and higher energy density, JPL said. Current systems rely on hydrogen gas, a substance that is more difficult to transport and store. “JPL invented the Direct Methanol Fuel Cell concept and also made significant contributions to all the facets of the technology. These contributions include: development of advanced catalyst materials, high-performance fuel cell membrane electrode assemblies, compact fuel cell stacks, and system designs”—Xinhua

Study finds more water inside moon

Cleveland, 27 May—Parts of the moon’s interior contain as much water as the upper mantle of Earth, 100 times more than previously measured, US researchers say.

Scientists from Case Western Reserve University, Carnegie Institution for Science and Brown University discovered water along with volatile elements in lunar magma inside crystals trapped inside tiny volcanic glass beads returned to Earth by Apollo 17, a Case Western release said Thursday. The orange-coloured beads, no bigger than a pinhead on a page, came from deep inside the moon during volcanic eruptions.

“These samples provide the best window we have to the amount of water in the interior of the moon,” James Van Orman, Case Western professor of geological sciences, said. “The interior seems to be pretty similar to the interior of the Earth, from what we know about water abundance.”

The concentrations of water and volatile elements, including fluorine, chlorine and sulfur, in lunar magma are almost identical to concentrations in solidified magma from primitive terrestrial mid-ocean ridges on Earth, the researchers said. The same team, in a study three years ago led by Alberto Saal, a professor of geological sciences at Brown University, found the first evidence of the presence of water in lunar volcanic glasses.—Internet

Russian Soyuz space capsule returns to Earth

Beijing, 27 May—The Russian Soyuz space capsule has returned to Kazakhstan safely.

It’s arrival on earth brings an end to the five month stay in orbit. Earlier on Monday, the Soyuz TMA-20 successfully backed away from the International Space Station and the shuttle Endeavour. Onboard the Soyuz was Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli, American astronaut, Catherine Coleman, and Russian cosmonaut, Dmitry Kondratyev.

The departure left behind three space station residents and Endeavour’s six-man crew.

Xinhua

US Internet ad revenues hit record high in Q1

San Francisco, 27 May—Internet advertising revenues in the United States surged to 7.3 billion US dollars in the first quarter of 2011, the highest first-quarter revenue level on record for the industry, said a new report released on Thursday.

The numbers also represented a 23-percent increase over the same period a year earlier, the Interactive Advertising Bureau (IAB) and PricewaterhouseCoopers said in the report.

“The consistent and considerable year-over-year growth we’re seeing demonstrates that digital media is an increasingly popular destination for ad dollars, and for good reason,” Randall Rottenberg, chief executive officer of the IAB, said in a statement.

“As Americans spend more time online for information and entertainment purposes, digital advertising and marketing has emerged as one of the most effective tools businesses have to attract and retain customers,” he added.

“These numbers indicate that the interactive advertising field hasn’t simply bounced back since the recession; it’s growing with dynamic energy,” noted David Silverman, a partner at Price-WaterhouseCoopers. IAB, a trade association for interactive marketing, comprised more than 500 media and technology companies who are responsible for selling 86 percent of online advertising in the United States.

Xinhua

E-book readers from Chinese manufacturer Hanvon are seen on display at the Book Expo America in New York, on 25 May, 2011. Xinhua
Germany finds deadly E coli virus in Spanish cucumbers

BERLIN, 27 May— German health officials said Thursday that cucumbers imported from Spain were one source of a recent deadly E coli outbreak in northern states that killed three people and made hundreds sick.

The Hamburg Institute for Hygiene and the Environment (HU) found that four cucumbers in a local market were contaminated by Enterohaemorrhagic E coli (EHEC), and three of them were imported from two separate Spanish suppliers, Hamburg state health authorities said.

The origin of the fourth cucumber was still under investigation, officials added. German supermarkets began to pull Spanish cucumbers off shelves Thursday afternoon following the findings in Hamburg.

The food-monitoring agencies in the northern states were launching investigations on vegetable markets, the federal agriculture ministry said in a statement.

Figures showed that Spain is Germany’s second largest supplier of cucumbers within the European Union, accounting for some 40 percent of the country’s cucumber imports.

Scientists said that EHEC is a virulent strain of gut bacterium that can cause severe stomach upsets, diarrhea, stroke and coma. It would lead to kidney failure in extreme cases.

Germany saw three cases of E coli outbreak two weeks ago, starting from the northern states like Hamburg and then spreading to eastern and southern regions.

Struggling automaker Saab restarts production

STOCKHOLM, 27 May— Spyker Cars NV’s cash-strapped Swedish unit Saab Automobile on Friday resumed car production after a near seven-week standstill caused largely by payment problems to its suppliers.

The long-awaited resumption came after Chinese group Pang Da last week agreed to buy a 24 percent stake in Spyker for euro5 million ($92 million). It also made a euro30 million upfront payment for 1,300 Saab cars.

The first cars to roll off production lines at the Trollhattan plant in southwestern Sweden were a silver Saab 9-5 Aero and an orange Saab 9-3 convertible, with a batch of about 100 planned on the first production day since early April.

Saab spokeswoman Gunilla Gustavs said Pang Da would decide soon on another order worth some euro15 million. The Pang Da deal appeared to rescue the ailing car maker as skeptics predicted Saab was heading for collapse after a manufacturing deal with China’s Hawtai fell through.

However, it is still subject to approval, including from Chinese government agencies, the European Investment Bank, previous Saab owner General Motors Corp. and the Swedish National Debt Office.

Spyker CEO Victor Muller, who is also the chief executive and chairman of Saab, called the startup “a great day” for the Swedish company.

“We have gone through a tough patch in recent weeks but Saab is back in action again,” Muller said. “We will work hard in the coming period to regain confidence and show our ability to become a successful car maker.”

Gunnar Brunius, from the company’s purchasing and manufacturing division, cautioned that they might face problems in the early stages. “But we will work hard together with our suppliers to minimize any disruptions to production,” he said. Saab said the company now has a total order for more than 8,000 cars.

Honda North American production to reach 100% in August for most models

TORONTO, 27 May— Japanese automaker Honda on Thursday announced plans for the accelerated recovery of its auto production in North America, after the 11 March earthquake and tsunami in Japan seriously disrupted auto parts supply.

Honda will increase production volume at its North American automobile plants to a rate of 100 percent of its original production plan in August, for all models except the 2012 Civic, said the company.

As the supply of parts from Japan improves, production will ramp up in August on a step-by-step, plant-by-plant and model-by-model basis, with production returning to 100 percent of the original plan.

Production of the all-new 2012 Civic lineup will continue at a reduced rate of approximately 50 percent due to the limited supply of key components. However, this situation continues to be evaluated and full production is expected to resume sometime in the fall, with plans to meet anticipated strong demand for the fuel-efficient Civic lineup.

“A we pleased to see a positive turnaround represented by this significant improvement in our production situation,” said Jerry Chenkin, executive vice president of Honda Canada Inc.

Honda has managed the unprecedented parts supply issues that resulted from the devastating impact of the 11 March earthquake and tsunami in Japan, with no layoffs at any of its 14 production plants in North America. Honda Canada Inc was founded in 1969.

A woman walks out from Tiffany’s Fifth Avenue store with a purchase, on 25 May, 2011 in New York. Tiffany said Thursday, its first-quarter earnings rose 25 percent on worldwide sales growth.

Filipinos stand around a quilt made by persons with HIV and AIDS during a ceremony to mark the 27th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial at the Department of Foreign Affairs headquarters in suburban Manila, Philippines on 26 May, 2011.—INTERNET

Health Tip: Prevent back pain in the car

Travelling long distances in the car can take a toll on your back. The American Chiropractic Association suggests how to keep back pain at bay during a car trip:

* Keep a relaxed grip on the wheel, occasionally tightening, then loosening your hold.—INTERNET

Health

African swine fever spreading into Europe

ROME, 27 May— African swine fever, a viral disease deadly to pigs but harmless to human beings, is spreading beyond Russia and the Caucasus region into Europe, the United Nations’ food agency said Thursday.

“Swine fever is fast becoming a global issue,” said Juan Lubroth, chief veterinary officer for the Food and Agriculture Organization.

“It now poses an immediate threat to Europe and beyond. Countries need to be on the alert and to strengthen their preparedness and contingency plans,” he said.

The disease, for which there is currently no vaccine, was introduced into Georgia from southern Africa late in 2006.—Xinhua

Filipinos stand around a quilt made by persons with HIV and AIDS during a ceremony to mark the 27th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial at the Department of Foreign Affairs headquarters in suburban Manila, Philippines on 26 May, 2011.—INTERNET

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Toddler, police contract potentially deadly mosquito-borne disease in Western Australia

SYDNEY, 27 May—A toddler and a policeman have become the latest victims of a rare and potentially deadly mosquito-borne disease in Western Australia (WA), local media reported on Friday. The two-year-old child contracted Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) in the Kimberley of WA and is now in Royal Darwin Hospital in a stable condition, according to Australian Associated Press (AAP).

The 29-year-old police officer, who was recently contracted the disease at an Aboriginal community of WA, has emerged from a coma in a Perth hospital but is still unable to communicate. It is not known if the victims from WA’s far north will fully recover.

In April 2011, a man who had been traveling in WA’s northwest became the first person in the state to die from the disease in three years. A 19-year-old Canadian tourist also died after contracting MVE while travelling through the Northern Territory earlier in May.

A WA Health Department spokeswoman said nine West Australians had contracted MVE so far in 2011. Several people remain very ill in hospital, she said.

Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic committee unveils marketing plan

Nanjing, 27 May—Nanjing Youth Olympics organizers announced marketing plans for the 2014 Summer Youth Olympic Games here on Friday.

The organizing committee aims to cooperate with companies from various industries, including logistics, financial services and tourism to provide financial support for the Games.

In a video message, International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge also called for companies in China and worldwide to help the committee deliver a “fantastic event”.

“The Nanjing 2014 Organizing Committee can not deliver the Games on its own. It needs the support of key partnerships with the business community that will become integral to the success of the Games,” said Rogge.

“Youth Olympic Games Partners will help us forge new ground, bringing industry-leading expertise, innovation, and financial support to the Games,” he added.

The Youth Olympic Games, the brainchild of Rogge, features athletes between the age of 14 and 18. The first Summer Youth Olympic Games was held in Singapore last year.

Nanjing was awarded the right to stage the second Summer Youth Olympic Games from 14 Aug to 26 Aug.

China seeks to expand modern philanthropy

BEIJING, 27 May—Zong Qinghou, once the richest man on the Chinese mainland, has confirmed in an exclusive interview with Xinhua that he will set up a charity foundation named after him with one to two million yuan as initial capital.

“Donation is not charity. A true philanthropist should be able to help people in need by continuously creating social wealth,” Zong says. The charity foundation will be continuously supported by Zong, the chairman of Wahaha, China’s largest beverage producer. He topped the 2010 Forbes China Rich List with a personal fortune of 8 billion US dollars in net worth.

Zong is not alone in his pursuit of modern philanthropy in China. The number of professional charity foundations in China is booming, and donations are increasing every year. China is changing the way it approaches philanthropy.—Xinhua

16th NAM ministerial meeting ends in Bali

BALI, 27 May—The 16th Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) came to an end in Bali, Indonesia on Friday.

Marty Natalegawa, Indonesian Foreign Minister, said in his closing remarks that the meeting had been a fruitful conference and a meaningful commemorative meeting.

He said that the deliberations yielded an 127-page Final Document that reflected the shared vision and common position of the Movement, which sent strong message on the need to step up NAM’s efforts on the reform of the United Nations and the global economic and financial system.

The final document as well as the Bali Commemorative Declaration issued on Wednesday also prescribed measures to address emerging challenges that defy national solution alone, he added.

Marty said that the meeting also affirmed the admission of Azerbaijan and Fiji into the NAM family, and reaffirmed the commitment of member countries to democratic values and the promotion and protection of human rights.—Xinhua

Road accident kills 11 in Russia

MOSCOW, 27 May—At least 11 people were killed in a traffic accident in Moscow Region on Friday, said the Emergency Situations Ministry.

A passenger bus, carrying 21 passenger and two drivers, collided with a Kamaz truck and caught fire at early hours Friday morning.

Local reports said at least four people were hospitalized.

Preliminary investigation showed that the accident might be caused by fatigue driving. Interfax news agency said the bus was privately-owned.—Xinhua

Nanotechnology could help people in need by continuously creating social wealth,” Zong says. The charity foundation will be continuously supported by Zong, the chairman of Wahaha, China’s largest beverage producer. He topped the 2010 Forbes China Rich List with a personal fortune of 8 billion US dollars in net worth.

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JICA donates rescue equipment to FSD

YANGON, 27 May—Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) donated rescue equipment to Fire Services Department under Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the department (headquarters) in Mayangon Township here yesterday evening, attended by Union SWRR Minister U Aung Kyi.

Head of resident representatives of JICA Mr Hideo Miyamoto presented 16 kinds of rescue equipment including safety air cushions, smoke ejector, hydraulic cutter and spreaders, power unit and fireman’s suits through Director-General U Tin Moe of FSD who presented certificate of honour and gifts to the former and spoke words of thanks.

The Union Minister and party then viewed demonstration of rescue equipment which worth US$ 101,294.

MNA

New notebooks of Toshiba introduced

Managing Director U Htin Aung Khaing extends greetings at the new notebook introducing ceremony.—NLM

YANGON, 27 May—Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd and Lucky Bird Trading Co Ltd organized Toshiba Art Collection and introduced new notebooks of advanced technologies at Traders Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

Managing Director U Htin Aung Khaing of Lucky Bird Co and Mr Lin Yasi of Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd extended greetings.

Next, the Art Jam collection contest was held to make clear the new technology of Toshiba Notebook.

Responsible persons awarded winners in the contest. Toshiba Notebook has been standing at the fourth of world PC field for 25 years. The notebook has best innovation, right design, high quality and design by technology of Toshiba.

User for Toshiba Notebook gets one year international warranty added with three years local warranty or international warranty through select service programme.

Those wishing to buy Toshiba Notebook may contact Lucky Bird Trading Co Ltd, No. 103, Thienbyu Street, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Tel: 01-248167, 01-379873 and 01-399011 in Yangon, at No.100 at the corner of 75th Street and 31st Street in Mawgawpiya Ward of Chanayethazan Township, Tel: 02-73478, Thabyegon Market at north-west roundabout in Nay Pyi Taw, Tel: 067-414113.—NLM

Bangladeshi Chief of Army Staff and party conclude visit

NAY PYI TAW, 27 May—A delegation led by Chief of Army Staff of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh General Muhammad Abdul Mubeen, ndc, psc and wife left Nay Pyi Taw by air on 24 May morning and visited the Defence Services Academy and the National Kandawgyi Garden in PyinOoLwin in the afternoon.

On Mandalay Hill, they enjoyed the scenic beauty of Mandalay at sunset.

In the evening, Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ye Aung and wife hosted a dinner to the delegation at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay.

On 25 May morning, they arrived at Heho by air and visited the Command and General Staff College.

In Taunggyi, Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Hsan Oo and wife hosted a dinner to the Bangladeshi guests.

Yesterday, the guests visited Inlay Lake and proceeded to Yangon by air. While in Yangon, they paid tribute to Memorial to Fallen Heroes.

At Mya Yek Nyo Royal Hotel, they were hosted a luncheon by Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Tham.

The Bangladeshi General and wife paid homage to King Zafar Shah’s Tomb this morning. They also visited Shwedagon Pagoda and paid homage at Bangle Sumin Jaymay Mosque on Sule Pagoda Road. They left Yangon by air in the evening.

MNA

Shan State Myanmar Traditional Artiste and Artesian Asiayon donates earthquake victims

NAY PYI TAW, 27 May—At Chief Minister’s Office of Shan State Government, Shan State Myanmar Traditional Artiste and Artesian Asiayon on 24 May held a ceremony to provide cash assistance for earthquake-hit victims of Tahlay, Tachilek District.

Chairman of the Asiayon U Tin Win and Secretary U Moe Win donated 3.35 million kyat, a disaster relief fund raised by Shan State Myanmar Traditional Artiste and Artesian Asiayon by organizing Help Art Show Photo and Painting Exhibition from 10 to 14 May, through Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat.

MNA

RUMFCCI to cooperate with Hanns Seidel Foundation in various sectors

YANGON, 27 May—Mr Christian J Hegemer, Director of Hanns Seidel Foundation & Germany Institute for International Cooperation, Vietnam, and Myanmar Representative Mr Axel Neubert called on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U Thaung Tin and Joint General Secretary U Moe Kyaw at the federation office on 18 May afternoon.

They discussed matters related to recommunication between Hanns Seidel Foundation and RUMFCCI, assistance being provided by Hanns Seidel Foundation for social and economic development projects in ASEAN countries, technologies in promoting private economic sector, opening of on-job training courses, light- and medium-scale industries, agricultural tasks and joint conducting of course for human resources development.—MNA
Region Government to hold coordination...

(from page 1)

d saplings of Yangon City Development Committee—in the rainy season tree growing period.

After the meeting, the Vice-President and party viewed the Nano technology research works, science research, research on medicinal plants, research on production and geological research at the Arts Hall of Yangon University. Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe and officials conducted the Vice-President and party round the research works.

After hearing the reports, the Vice-President instructed officials to do continuous research works on a wider scale for serving the interest of the nation.

The Vice-President met with the Yangon University rector, pro-rectors and faculty heads at the Conference Room. Deputy Minister U Ba Shwe explained conducting of post-graduate courses, MA and MSc courses, and PhD courses and research works.

Yangon University Rector Dr Tin Tun elaborated on academic matters and administration of the university, research works and outcomes, renovation of university buildings, and measures to keep the university campus green and clean.

The Vice-President said that research booths and research results were encouraging; that priority was to be given to short-term researches contributing to rapid growth of the nation; that intellectuals and intelligentsia fundamental in development of a nation. He called for production of intellectuals and intelligentsia who could facilitate better education standard of the nation saying that only with the intellectuals and intelligentsia, the nation be transformed into industrialized one from a conventional production nation.

Region Government is to hold coordination meetings for effectively carrying out respective tasks and to take responsibility for its tasks. The Region Government is to report its endeavours to respective Union Ministries on time. As the government has planned to grow 30 million saplings this rainy season, Yangon Region is to cultivate the designated number of saplings and to nurture these saplings.
Region Government to hold coordination...

(from page 8)

After the meeting, the Vice-President visited Science Research Department and viewed electronic microscopy lab and atomic absorption spectroscopy. While visiting Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) on Weizayanda Street in Thanganyin Township, the Vice-President heard reports on current condition of the pitch of the centre with seating capacity for 20000 audience and extension of additional 15,000 seats presented by Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik. President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw gave an account of extension of the stadium efforts for development of Myanmar football standard.

Gold Projects provided by FIFA and the Vice-President called for safety of audience while watching matches.

The Vice-President and party looked round condition of the football pitch and extension of eastern pavilion of the Youth Training Centre. The Vice-President then went to Thenthbyo Gymnasium and viewed skill demonstration of Karatedo, Taekwondo, Wushu, Boxing and Aerobics players.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham enjoys practising of Myanmar athletes.—MNA

Parami Hospital-Yangon launches MRI service

YANGON, 27 May—Magnetic Resonance Imaging Building of Parami Hospital-Yangon was opened in conjunction with the launching of MRI service at the hospital on Parami New Road, here, this morning, attended by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe. Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and officials formally opened the building. MRI service is the first of its kind in private health care sector in Yangon.—NLM

Nay Pyi Taw Council member visits villages in Zeyathiri, Tatkon Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 27 May—Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Paing Soe together with Township Administrator U Myat Thein Tun inspected the 100-bed hospital being built in Tatkon on 25 May. In the afternoon, they looked into BEPS (Branch) in Setkon Village in Zeyathiri Township, rural health branch in Mayingyi Village, Maseechaung Diversion Weir and Yezin Station Hospital. In meeting with local authorities, he explained regional development and health care services.—MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe observing MRI service at the hospital.—NLM

MNA

Sagaing Region Chief Minister emphasizes standardized collection of toll

NAY PYI TAW, 27 May—Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye spoke to automobile and sealift service owners at Monywa Township Town Hall at which responsible personnel explained matters related to traffic rules, tax collection and service license, on 25 May.

The chief minister attended the stake-driving ceremony for construction of two-storey Chindwin Market yesterday and delivered an inaugural speech at the annual general meeting of Monywa Township Cooperative.

The chief minister viewed edible oil mill, peas mill and weaving workshop of the cooperative. He attended the coordination meeting of superintending engineers of Public Works, private companies working under B.O.T system and toll-collecting businessmen and called for repair of roads and bridges, standardized collection of toll and parallel completion of roads and bridges under construction.

MNA

An opening ceremony of Mya Alin Ein Library on 23 May morning was taken place in Mya Kyun Tha Village, Yepawthe village-tract in Hmauby Township, Yangon North District. Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lwin of Township Administration Department, Head of Township Department of Information and Public Relations Daw Khin Thida Oo and Village Administrator U Thea Naung Oo cut the ribbon to open the library, Myanmar Library Foundation, Hmauby Township Writers and Journalists Association, and well-wishers donated publications through Librian U Myo Aung.—Township IPRD
Severe weather batters 11 states

NASHVILLE, 27 May—Communities across the middle of the country cleaned up on Thursday from more tornadoes and high winds after another stormy night, while states further east began facing severe weather problems of their own.

A wave of storms started hitting the South and East Thursday afternoon, with softball-sized hail in Georgia and high winds downing trees in upstate New York. Thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rains and strong winds in Atlanta late Thursday caused three deaths from falling trees, and left more than 100,000 without power, according to local media reports.

The known toll of falling trees, and left more than 100,000 without power, according to local media reports.

BP oil spill partly blamed for Gulf dolphin deaths

MIAMI, 27 May—The deaths of over 150 dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico so far this year is due in part to the devastating 2010 BP oil spill and the chemical dispersants used to contain it, a report said Thursday.

A total of 153 dolphins have been found in the Gulf so far in 2011, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sixty-five of the mammals were babies.

In a study on the effects of the spill, marine expert Graham Worthy of the University of Central Florida, along with 26 other experts, said the dolphins were found in a part of the Gulf that saw nearly five million barrels of crude leak in the worst oil spill in US history.

“I suspect what we might be seeing are several things coming together to form a perfect storm,” Worthy said.

However, unusual cold waters that were partially to blame are also conditions that the dolphins could normally survive — so the deaths “may also be an indirect effect stemming from the BP oil spill,” he said.—Reuters

Japan plans global nuclear safety meeting

DEAUVILLE (France), 27 May—Japan intends to host a global meeting on nuclear safety with UN atomic energy watchdog IAEA late next year, Prime Minister Naoto Kan told Group of Eight leaders on Thursday.

“Japan would like to open an international summit on nuclear safety in cooperation with the IAEA late next year in Japan,” Kan said during lunch at the G8 summit in Deauville, according to a senior government official.

Kan was speaking to G8 counterparts from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States.

Nuclear safety is high on the agenda following the earthquake in Japan, which triggered a tsunami wave that devastated several towns, killed 25,000 people and flooded the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Japan has drawn up a timetable in which it aims to stabilize the nuclear plant by early next year. Currently an international team of IAEA specialists are visiting and inspecting the plant.

Describing the nuclear situation as “gradually stabilising,” Kan pledged transparency and appealed for his country, where the economy slipped into a recession following the twin calamities.—Internet

Two M pets left at home while Britons go to work

LONDON, 27 May—Around 2.6 million pets are locked up in their homes across Britain while their owners are busy at work, says a new study.

At least 25 percent of the total number of dogs are left home alone every day, says the Daily Express. Around 72 percent of dog owners feel guilty about leaving their pets alone, says the study by gcocompare.com, which polled 2,000 dog owners.

One-third Britons leave doors open inside the house so that the pet can wander around freely, while 27 percent leave meals for them.

Around 13 percent of dog owners regret they should never have bought a dog because they have no time to look after it. Phil Paterson-Fox, head of pet insurance at the company, said: “This is distressing news. Unfortunately for the dogs, it does mean long term health implications as they may not be getting enough fresh air, exercise or attention.”—Internet

S Korea, US to collect groundwater samples over alleged burial of Agent Orange

SEOUL, 27 May — South Korea and the United States are set to initiate a joint investigation on Friday, which involves collecting groundwater samples near a US army base in South Korea suspected to be a burial site of the toxic defoliant Agent Orange.

Experts from the Ministry of Environment in South Korea plan to collect groundwater samples on Friday afternoon at 10 locations near Camp Carroll in Chilgok, some 300 kilometres southeast of Seoul, in the presence of US officials, local media reported.

Seoul’s Tonhap news agency quoted a ministry official as saying that it would take more than two weeks for analysis results of the groundwater samples to come out.

The investigation comes after three US Army veterans revealed last week that they helped bury drums of Agent Orange at Camp Carroll in 1978. Earlier this week, the US Eighth Army in South Korea said a 1992 study showed that a “large amount” of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals were buried at Camp Carroll in 1978 but were removed during the following two years, along with 40 to 60 tons of soil. It did not know if Agent Orange was among the chemicals.—Xinhua
A local retreat: Purple Bamboo Park

Beijing, 27 May—The Purple Bamboo Park (Zizhuyuan) is a cool retreat in northwestern Beijing’s Haidian District for those seeking a refreshing walk without the litter free. The park encompasses 3 lakes and a canal that runs to the Summer Palace. The lakes are connected by a series of bridges and little islands dotted with benches and plenty of shade provided by an abundance of trees. The garden paths and lakeside benches are well-kept and the park is almost litter free.

The lakes served as a reservoir for the city’s water supply during the 13th century, and the park was a favorite destination for city dwellers marking the “Pure Brightness” festival (Qingming) during the Ming dynasty. After the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, the park was renovated and reopened with its current crop of lush bamboo, scenic lakes and garden paths. As its name suggests, the park is home to several bamboo gardens and over 50 varieties of bamboo can be found here.

Locals are especially fond of this park, making it a great location for foreigners to practice their Chinese. On the garden paths groups of elderly Beijing residents gather to play cards or mahjong.

A variety of pleasure boats are available for rent at the lakeside in Purple Bamboo Park.

Antique buyers fall for old tricks

Turalei, 27 May—An official in Sudan says families fleeing violence in the disputed Abyei region have almost doubled the population of the town of Turalei. County Commissioner Dominic Deng said Friday that up to 40,000 people have arrived in Turalei and that the town’s food and fuel are scarce.

He says around 80,000 people have fled Abyei in total. Northern Sudanese tanks rolled into Abyei last weekend, forcing residents to flee. Both northern and Southern Sudan stake a claim to Abyei, a fertile grassland that up to 40,000 people have arrived in Turalei and that the town’s food and fuel are scarce.

Southern Sudan’s president says the south will not respond militarily and risk a resumption of the country’s civil war. More than 2 million people were killed during war, which ended with a peace deal in 2005.

S Africa to push ahead with nuclear plans

Cape Town, 27 May—Energy-hungry South Africa said Thursday it would not abandon plans to scale up nuclear power despite the meltdown in March at the Fukushima plant in Japan. The state wants to ramp up nuclear capacity in the next two decades.

“The nuclear transaction needs to be commenced well in time so that we can commission the power by 2023,” Minister Dipuo Peters said in her budget speech to parliament on Thursday.

South Africa plans to build 9,600 megawatts of new nuclear capacity in the next two decades. “We still believe that to mitigate against greenhouse gases, nuclear is going to play a very important role. However, we are going to factor in the lessons learned from Fukushima,” energy director general Nelsisse Magubane said. The country’s new power project guidelines were given the nod five days after Japan’s deadly March tsunami, which forced a global re-think on nuclear power after damage to the Fukushima plant’s cooling systems triggered the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl 25 years ago.

Chile, Thailand conclude second round of FTA negotiations

Santiago, 27 May—Chile and Thailand on Thursday concluded here the second round of negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA). During this round, both delegations discussed topics related to goods trade and cooperation, rules of origins, customs procedures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical obstacles for trading, legal issues and services and investments.

Chief of the Chilean delegation Rodrigo Contreras said that “regarding goods, the result was very meaningful.” In the other sectors, there were no big differences, “but there was a great understanding between the countries, which is a very good signal for reaching an agreement in the short term,” Contreras said.

The third round will be held in July in Thailand.
Skin cells ‘turned into neurons’ by US scientists

An image of neurons in the brain. The researchers claim such cells can be made from skin cells. — Internet

New York, 27 May—A Californian team say they have managed to convert human skin cells directly into functioning brain cells. The scientists manipulated the process by which DNA is transcribed within foetal skin cells to create cells which behaved like neurons. The technique had previously been demonstrated in mice, says the report in Nature. It could be used for neurotological research, and might conceivably be used to create brain cells for transplant.

The scientists used genetically modified viruses to introduce four different “transcription factors” into foetal skin cells. These transcription factors play a role in the “reading” of DNA and the encoding of proteins within the cell. They found the introduction of these four transcription factors had the effect of switching a small portion of the skin cells into cells which functioned like neurons. Unlike other approaches, the process did not involve the reprogramming of the skin cells into stem cells, but rather the direct transcription of skin cells into neurons.

Marius Wernig, an assistant professor of pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine in California, was one of the researchers.

Smoking causes 17% of annual deaths in Cuba

HAVANA, 27 May—Smoking causes 17 per cent of annual deaths in Cuba besides heavy economic losses to the state, according to a local expert here on Thursday.

Alfredo Duenas, chief of Preventive Cardiology at the Institute of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery, said that the “addiction takes away 10 years of remaining life of the smokers.”

Duenas said that a third of the Cuban adult population smoke,” which is a hindrance to the development of the nation”. “The dire consequences of smoking, besides diminishing quality of life, have significant impact on health and economic costs to the individuals and to the country’s budget, due to illness and the expense involved,” he said.

Xinhua, UNDP launch poverty-themed global photo contest

BEIJING, 27 May—China’s Xinhua News Agency and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced on Friday in Beijing the launch of an international photo contest focusing on global fight against poverty.

Titled “Zoom in on Poverty International Photo Contest,” the event is co-organized by the two agencies with an aim to arouse attention and win support from people and governments across the world for poverty eradication, organizers said at a Press Conference.

Photographers around the world, both amateur and professional, have been invited to submit works with anti-poverty themes from Friday until 1 September, according to organizers.

The contest will conclude on 17 October, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. An award ceremony will be held in Beijing on that day.

The best entries will be presented to the public via the Xinhua newswire network and its affiliated magazines, newspapers and TV network, as well as through online platforms and showcases in UN agencies around the world.—Xinhua
FBI says “mullet bandit” holds up another bank

The Ohio bank robber dubbed the “mullet bandit” by federal authorities appears to have struck again.

The latest heist took place on Wednesday morning at a Key Bank branch on Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio.

The FBI said a man matching the physical description of the mullet-wearing suspect sought in two previous holdups walked into the bank and handed a teller a note, saying he was robbing the bank, had a gun, and would hurt the teller if she did not cooperate. The robber was dressed in the mullet bandit’s garb, including Seattle Mariners baseball cap and large dark sunglasses.

Initial surveillance photos suggested he had shed his distinctive hairdo to evade detection, swapping out his mullet — a style popular in the 1980s that is short on the top, tight on the sides and long in the back — for something more up to date.

Phone app tells tales on murderer

It began with a simple phrase — “brace yourself” — sent by a university professor to his mistress via a South Korean messaging service app used by millions every day.

But now the message has become key evidence in a murder investigation, with the professor arrested for killing his wife and his mistress sought as an accomplice, police said. The professor, whose full name was not given, went to the head office of the “Kakao Talk” messenger service provider after the murder and asked them to delete the message. But the message was saved for a month and police were able to retrieve it as part of an investigation of his phone records.

Eventually the professor confessed to strangling his wife, using his mistress’s car to transport the body, and dumping it into the sea.

Lindsay Lohan begins house detention

LOS ANGELES, 27 May— Actress Lindsay Lohan began her 35 days of house arrest after turning herself in at a Key Bank branch on Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio.

The 24-year-old starlet's release date is over 10 months after she was fitted court-ordered house arrest after she was fitted with an ankle monitoring centre early Thursday turning herself in at a Key Bank branch on Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio.

The jewelry store she went home to begin her centre early Thursday departing after she was arrested after she was arrested for robbing the Century Centre with an ankle monitoring device.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner ordered Lohan to complete the 120 days in jail and 480 hours of community service she had already been sentenced to. However, the sentence was reduced to 35 days under home confinement due to jail overcrowding.

The starlet’s release date is estimated to be around 29 June, according to the sheriff’s department.

The jewelry store’s owner, Sofia Kaman, testified last month that she realized about 10 minutes after Lohan left the store on 22 Jan the necklace was missing.

Octopus tips United to beat Barca

Iker the ‘psychic’ octopus has predicted Manchester United will beat Barcelona to be crowned club champions of Europe in Saturday’s final in London.

Iker forecast a United win in the Champions League by choosing to eat a sardine from a glass cylinder decorated with the club’s crest instead of one from a cylinder with Barcelona’s crest at the Sea Life Aquarium in the southern resort of Benalmadena. Barca need not worry though, as Iker last month wrongly forecast the Spanish club’s arch-rival Real Madrid would make the Wembley final.

Cheryl Cole ‘dropped from US X Factor’

LONDON, 27 May—British singer Cheryl Cole has been kicked off the judging panel of the new US version of “The X Factor”, a US report said on Thursday.

Celebrity website TMZ reported that producers dropped the 27-year-old from Newcastle, in northern England, because they feared US audiences would have trouble with her accent.

Ex-Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger, who has appeared on the UK show, was tipped as a likely replacement.

Cole was due to appear alongside former “American Idol” judge Paula Abdul, Antonio LA Reid and “The X Factor” creator Simon Cowell, when the show starts in September.

She was not appearing in “The X Factor” in Britain this autumn because of her American role.—Internet

Tim Burton show brings gothic vision to LA

LOS ANGELES, 27 May—Tim Burton’s arresting visual style is well known from movies like “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “Alice in Wonderland” — but a new show reveals the full scale of his Gothic vision.

The US filmmaker, partner of quirky British actress Helena Bonham-Cartre, was an accomplished artist, and a Disney animator, before moving into directing Hollywood movies. “This exhibition shows the full range of Tim Burton’s extraordinary creativity,” said Britt Salvesen, the exhibition’s organizer at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), which is presenting the show from 29 May to 31 October. “Most people have a good sense of his style, but seeing the show demonstrates how persistent his vision is and how evident it was from very early on, before he was even thinking about making full-scale feature films.”—Internet
Chicharito a hero in tough times for Mexico

**Manchester United's Javier Hernandez**

MEXICO CITY, 27 May—Look up from an oppressive Mexico City traffic jam and you see the baby face of Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez smiling down from a giant billboard. Look ahead and his image beams from an ad on a bakery truck.

Though he lives and plays more than 5,000 miles away for English club Manchester United, the 22-year-old whose nickname means "Little Pea" is everywhere in his home country at a time when Mexico is in dire need of a hero.

It's not just because Chicharito has enjoyed a stunning debut season with the English power house, scoring 20 goals and winning a fan vote as player of the season after his $9.8 million move from Guadalajara's Las Chivas. It's not even that he could be one of United's key players in Saturday's Champions League final against favored Barcelona.

Chicharito has enjoyed a "bogey-free 64" in 15 career rounds at the Byron Nelson Championship, things dropping for Jeff Overton early. I never had a chance to hit a lot of 220-yard par-3s, said about the 10-footer that I thought I missed it, and it suddenly seemed to be looming for him again.

Ferguson has been captivated by Europe ever since and milestones such as Celtic's win in 1967 and Manchester United's victory over Benfica the following year remain etched in the Scot's memory. "When Celtic won in 1967 I was with the Scotland team abroad in Hong Kong," recalled Ferguson this week as he prepared for Saturday's Champions League final against Barcelona.

Since then Ferguson has won the European Cup twice, with United stunning Bayern Munich 2-1 in injury time in 1999 before downing Chelsea in 2008. Now, more than half a century after watching the white-shirted matadors of Madrid torment Frankfurt at Hampden, Ferguson is on the threshold of his own piece of European history.

If United beat Barcelona at Wembley on Saturday he will equal Liverpool legend Bob Paisley's record as the only manager to win the European Cup three times. Typically, Ferguson thinks United should have more victories in the Euro- pean Cup than their wins in 1968, 1999 and 2008. —Internet

**Overton takes Nelson lead with bogey-free 64**

**IRVING, 27 May—**When the par putt dropped for Jeff Overton on the second hole early in the Byron Nelson Championship, things suddenly seemed to be going in the right direction for him again.

"That broke a lot and I thought I missed it, and it actually went in," Overton said about the 10-footer on the 220-yard par-3 hole. "And next thing, I was able to hit a lot of great shots and strike out early. I never had a chance of making bogey from there." Overton went on to a bogey-free 6-under 64 on Thursday to take the first-round lead at the Nelson, a stroke better than Ryan Palmer.

After that breaker on No 2, Overton made consecutive birdies.

He then started his back nine with four birdies in a seven-hole stretch for his best score in 15 career rounds at the Nelson, even after his 22-foot birdie try on the closing hole lipped out. Among his three runners-up finishes last season, when Overton was on the Ryder Cup team, was at the Nelson.

Zidane to be Real's new sports director

**MADRID, 27 May—**Real Madrid will appoint French great Zinedine Zidane, who currently works as an advisor to the club's president, on first-team affairs as its new sports director, a newspaper reported on Thursday.

Real president Florentino Perez announced Wednesday that the club's management would be restructured following the dismissal of director general Jorge Valdano, who had clashed repeatedly with coach Jose Mourinho.

Abidal set for France return

**PARIS, 27 May—**Barcelona defender Eric Abidal, who underwent surgery on a liver tumour in March, was on Thursday recalled to the France team by coach Laurent Blanc for a Euro 2012 qualifier against Belarus and two friendlies next month.

Sochaux midfielder Marvin Martin also received his first call up to the national team after being named by Blanc in the 26-man squad. Abidal, 31, was forced to withdraw from a bogey-free 6-under 64 on Thursday to take the first-round lead at the Nelson, a stroke better than Ryan Palmer.

Abidal said he expected to be back for France's qualifier against Bosnia on May 31.

Barcelona defender Eric Abidal draws for the last two matches — a 2-0 win at Luxembourg and 0-0 draw against Croatia — and was replaced by Patrice Evra and then Gael Clichy. Evra has been included in Thursday's squad but not Clichy. —Internet

Alex Ferguson’s Euro odyssey leads to Wembley

**LONDON, 27 May—**Sir Alex Ferguson’s relationship with Europe began as a teenager when he was among the 135,000 fans who crammed into Hampden Park for Real Madrid's destruction of Eintracht Frankfurt in 1960. Watching the famed Madrid of Alfredo Di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas demolish Frankfurt 7-3 left a lasting impression on Ferguson, who has said the match epitomised all the dreams of European football.

Ferguson has been captivated by Europe ever since and milestones such as Celtic’s win in 1967 and Manchester United’s victory over Benfica the following year remain etched in the Scot’s memory. "When Celtic won in 1967 I was with the Scotland team abroad in Hong Kong," recalled Ferguson this week as he prepared for Saturday’s Champions League final against Barcelona.

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Serena Williams to play World TeamTennis in July

**WASHINGTON, 27 May—**The World TeamTennis announced on its website on Thursday that thirteen-time Grand Slam winner Serena Williams will make a return to play in the WTT event in July.

According to the WTT website, Serena Williams will play on 7 July in Washington and two days later at Sacramento, California. Her sister Venus Williams is also scheduled to play on the same Kastles team with Serena.

Serena has not played since July of 2010 after undergoing foot surgery and then developing blood clots in her lung. World TeamTennis is a nine-team league that was founded by Billie Jean King. The event runs from 4-24 July. —Xinhua

**Abidal likely to leaveout Tevez for Copa/Batista**

**RESISTENCIA, 27 May—**Argentina coach Sergio Batista has indicated he will not call up Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez for the Copa America in July.

Tevez is coming off a long but successful season with City with whom he won the FA Cup and also qualified for the Champions League but Batista said he had to determine what was best for the squad as a whole with World Cup qualifiers looming after the Copa.

**Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez.**
Heavy snows spoil weekend holiday plans in West

Denver, 27 May—Ski resorts are bustling with activity. A key highway into Yellowstone is closed because parts of the road have seen more than 25 feet of snow. And campgrounds are feverishly removing snow from campsites to clear the way for visitors.

Welcome to Memorial Day weekend in much of the West. The traditional kickoff of the summer season will have a decidedly wintry feel in the Rocky Mountains, as well as California’s Sierra Nevada, because of a lingering record snowfall.

Epic snowpack in parts of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and California is forcing many tourists to abandon the annual rites of launching their summer holidays with a camping trip. Others plan to take advantage of prolonged snow and showshoeing this strange spring.

In Denver, Brooke Schmidgall had her sights set on high-country camping this weekend as she shopped for gear at a sporting goods store. She is among many planning to spend Memorial Day weekend in the mountains, despite the snowpack.

This photo shows a view of Lake Tahoe near Reno, Nev., after storms added to the snow pack, 26 May, 2011.

INTERNET

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (28-5-2011) (Saturday)

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This photo shows a view of Lake Tahoe near Reno, Nev., after storms added to the snow pack, 26 May, 2011.
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

Summer paddy model plot harvested

YEDASHE, 27 May—Yedashe Township Administrator U Myint Thein, Head of Township Land Records Department U Han Nyin, Township Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Tin Win and staff on 20 May harvested model plot from 5.31 acres of Hsinthukha paddy of farmer Daw Pu in Konegyi village-tract in Yedashe Township to obtain accurate yield per acre. The recorded yield per acre was 118.90 baskets. The township manager explained 14 scientific ways to get above 100 baskets per acre to local farmers.

Creative Writing Course opened

YANGON, 27 May — The opening ceremony of Creative Writing Course No (2/2011) conducted by Writers Group of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held at MWJA hall in Sarpay Beikman Building on Merchant Street here on 25 May, with an opening address by MWJA Vice-Chairman U Khin Maung Tun (Khin Maung Tun-Lammidaw). MWJA Secretary U Ko Ko (Ko Ko Sethmu Tekkatho) presented ongoing tasks and future plans of the association before Trainer Daw Khin Than Win (Kyu Kyi Thin) talked about the course.

Antique buyers fall for old tricks

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (27-5-2011)

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hsipaw</td>
<td>1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sittway</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thought for the Day

‘The good news is that we’re not in the same place as we were a year ago...’

—B. R. Haynsworth