Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations, nurseries in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations and seed nurseries in Alyinlo Village of Pyinmana Township, Aungchantha Village and Tegyigon Village of Zabuthiri Township and Kyargu Village of Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

At the briefing hall near 369-acre farmer educative high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy farm in Alyinlo Village of Pyinmana Township, the Vice-President met local farmers and heard reports on current sown acreage of Palethwe hybrid rice plantations in eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw and cultivation target for the coming monsoon presented by Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Myint Shwe, construction of irrigation facilities, irrigation plan and preparation of irrigation water for summer paddy cultivation by Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw Myint Hlaing, characteristics of Palethwe hybrid rice plant and its agricultural viability by Director-General of Agriculture Department U Kyaw Win.

Next, Director U Tin Ohn of Ayeyawady Hinthada Rice Company reported to the Vice-President on commercial viability and market prospects of hybrid paddy, and purchasing plan at price of K 400,000 for 100 baskets of rice, rice, cooked rice and rice plants displayed near the 369-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy farm and hybrid paddy plantation.

The Vice-President then viewed 100-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation of four different hybrid strains at Tegyigon Village of Zabuthiri Township and cordially greeted farmers. The Vice-President then visited 100-acre Chinese hybrid paddy plantations in Kyargu Village of Zabuthiri Township and heard reports on agricultural techniques, and seed production, proposed pilot farms, and paddy strains that are suitable to climate and rainfall of Myanmar presented by Chinese agriculturist Mr Tao Zhi Chuan.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaks to local farmers at 369-acre farmer educative high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation in Alyinlo Village of Pyinmana Township.—MNA

Afterwards, region/state ministers for agriculture and livestock breeding explained current cultivation of rice and requirements for bumper harvest, assessed by Union Minister U Myint Hlaing suggesting possible approaches.

Local farmers then reported to the Vice-President on their requirements for running farm. The Vice-President spoke on the occasion and cordially greeted them.

The Vice-President then viewed Philippine Palethwe hybrid paddy, Vietnam hybrid paddy, Myanmar Palethwe hybrid paddy, samples of Myanmar Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds, rice, cooked rice and rice plants displayed near the 369-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy farm and hybrid paddy plantation.

The Vice-President then proceeded to 288-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation in Aungchantha Village of Pyinmana Township where he met local farmers and heard reports on introduction of mechanized farming presented by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw.

The Vice-President then viewed 100-acre Palethwe paddy plantations of four different hybrid strains at Tegyigon Village of Zabuthiri Township and cordially greeted farmers. The Vice-President then visited 100-acre Chinese hybrid paddy plantations in Kyargu Village of Zabuthiri Township and heard reports on agricultural techniques, and seed production, proposed pilot farms, and paddy strains that are suitable to climate and rainfall of Myanmar presented by Chinese agriculturist Mr Tao Zhi Chuan.

(See page 8)

Environmental conservation talk held

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April—Kalaw Township Forest Department held an educative talk and distributed high-performance stoves as part of Inlay Lake conservation, at Namohn Monastery in Kalaw Township on 31 March.

Present were Director of State Forest Department U Win Zaw, Assistant Director U Than Zaw Oo of Inlay Lake Perpetuation and Watershed Area Conservation Multi-Purpose Project, Kalaw Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Aung and members of Kalaw Township environmental conservation committee members and villagers from Myinnahuti Village-tract.

Township Forest Department Staff Officer U Aung Thu gave a talk on environmental conservation and personnel distributed high-performance stoves to 300 households in Kyauktalon, Kyaukku and Namohn villages.—MNA
Say no to heart attack

According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death globally and is projected to remain so. It has no geographic, gender or social-economic boundaries, although genetically, men have shown a higher propensity of heart attacks than women.

Normally, your heart needs oxygen to function. Heart attacks occur when the coronary artery that supplies the muscles of the heart with oxygenated blood is suddenly blocked off by a blood clot. This clot can block the artery and shut off blood flow to the heart muscle. When the heart muscle is starved for oxygen and nutrients, it is called ischaemia. Within minutes of ischaemia, the muscles of the heart will die, thus resulting in a heart attack.

Heart attacks are sudden and intense. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the centre of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes, or pain that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable compression, heaviness of the chest, or gripping chest pain. And its symptoms include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach, shortness of breadth with or without chest discomfort, breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

The risk factors are smoking, high blood pressure, physical inactivity, obesity and overweight, diabetes, stress, alcohol, and diet and nutrition.

A healthy diet is one of the best weapons to fight against heart attack. The food you eat can affect other controllable risk factors like blood pressure, diabetes and overweight.

With high blood pressure exists with other factors like obesity, smoking, alcohol and diabetes, the risk of having a heart attack increases exponentially.

9th MNSP Chairman’s Cup Men’s Hockey League concludes

YANGON, 7 April—The prize presentation ceremony for the 9th Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman’s Cup Men’s Hockey League 2012, jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Hockey Federation, was held at Thibyu Htaw Turf Pitch this evening.

In the final match, Yangon Command team beat Defence Services (Air) team 2-1.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Police Lt-Gen Maung Soe presented the third prize to Defence Services (Navy), Vice-President of Myanmar Hockey Federation Lt-Gen U Zaw Win the second prize to No. 11 LID, Vice-President U Saw Lu La Hlaw the first prize to Yangon Command and President U Htin Zaw Win, the best player wards to the respective winners.

Director-General U Thaung Htaw of Sports and Physical Education Department awarded the championship shield and duplicate shield to Yangon Command team. —NLM

Union Defence Minister receives Cambodian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Hla Min received a delegation led by Lieutenant General Nem Sowath, the special envoy of Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence General Tea Banh, at his office, here, this morning.

The guests presented the invitation card to the Union Minister to attend the 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-6th ADMM and shared experiences of Cambodia in hosting the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting and process of works. —NLM

Union Minister for Defence Li-Gen Hla Min receives Lieutenat General Nem Sowath, the special envoy of Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence General Tea Banh. —NLM

Union EP-2 Minister, GEC Vice Chairman hold talks over gas power plants

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April—Union Minister for Electric Power No 2 U Khin Maung Soe and Vice Chairman of General Electric Corporation Mr John G Rice and party discussed matters on running the natural gas power plants at full capacity.

Also present at the meeting at the HeadOffice of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board in Yangon on 5 April were Chairman of YESU U Aung Khanting, Vice Chairman U Maung Maung Latt, Chief Engineer of steam/gas power plants department of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise U Soe Hlaiing and officials concerned. —NLM

Bangladeshi guests conclude visit

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April—The Bangladeshi delegation led by Chief of the Air Staff of the Bangladesh Air Force Air Marshal Shah Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, ndc, fawc, psc visited Defence Services Academy, Defence Services Technological Academy, and National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinUoLwin and Mannarpirw Ruhk Tiyi. On 3 April, they were seen off by Brig-Gen Thit Lin Ohn from Mingaladon Station, Brig-Gen Thein Naing, officials concerned, the Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar and the military attaché at Yangon International Airport.

Senior military officers see off Bangladeshi Air Marshal Shah Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, ndc, fawc, psc at Yangon International Airport. —NLM

Self-reliant gravel road inaugurated in Shwegu

SHWEGU, 7 April—An opening ceremony of an inter-village gravel road linking Shwewu and Wethlu village in Shwegu Township was held on 29 March morning by Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi, Pyithu Hluttaw.

Sports and Physical Education Department Director-General U Thaung Htaw presented championship shield and replica trophy to Yangon Command team. —NLM

Representative U Win Naing and wellwisher formally cut the ribbon to open the road. On the occasion, the township administrator and the Pyithu Hluttaw made speeches. The executive officer of Township Development Affairs Committee reported on facts about the road. After that, a local spoke words of thanks. The 450 feet long and 12 feet wide gravel road was built at a cost of K 25 million by wellwisher U Kalat (Pinyathu Brick Industry). —Myanmar Alin
Navy jet crashes into Virginia apartments, three unaccounted for

VIRGINIA BEACH, 7 April — A US Navy F/A-18D fighter crashed into an apartment complex in Virginia soon after takeoff on Friday, sending firesballs into the sky, damaging six buildings and injuring seven people. No deaths have been reported, but three residents of the Mayfair Mews complex for the elderly were unaccounted for, authorities said. “We have physically been in every structure, and we have 95 percent completed the search and rescue,” Virginia Beach Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Tim Riley said. All injuries, including those of the F/A-18’s crew, have so far been described as minor, officials said. Both crew members were safely taken from the aircraft before it crashed into the buildings in Virginia Beach, and one pilot was found still strapped into his ejection seat. Four of the injured were taken to a hospital for treatment. Authorities had said nine people were injured, but later revised the number to seven.

Suicide bomber kills Afghanistan peace councilor

KABUL, 7 April — A suicide bomber has killed the influential head of a regional peace council in eastern Afghanistan, security officials say. Maulvi Hashem Mumb was on his way home from Friday prayers when a Taliban fighter crashed into an apartment building in eastern Afghanistan. Mumb, a senior ally of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, is a former commander of a major Afghan militia group, Hizb-i-Islami. The head of the government’s High Peace Council in Kabul, he is said to have persuaded insurgents to lay down arms and join the peace process. Karzai is a stronghold of the decade-long Taliban-led insurgency against President Karzai’s government and its Western allies. The president said: “The terrorists are trying to undermine the role of elders who are working for the good of Afghanistan, but they should realize that they can never achieve their evil goals by such heinous acts.”

Iran: Navy rescues Chinese sailors from pirates

TEHRAN, 7 April — Iran's state TV says the country’s navy has rescued 28 crew members of a Chinese ship hijacked by pirates. The Saturday broadcast says the Iranian Navy also detained nine Somali pirates in the operation in the Arabian Sea in the north of the Indian Ocean. The pirates attacked the ship Friday but they surrendered after Iranian Navy sent warships to rescue the crew and free the ship. The freighter was carrying iron and was heading to a port in southwestern Iran. Both the attack and the rescue operations were carried out in international waters. Iran has clashed with pirates on several occasions in the past and freed ships captured by them.
Top scientist quits anti-doping body over ‘muzzling’

LAKESIDE, 7 April — A leading scientist says he is resigning from an export body on biological passports in sport because he is being “muzzled”.

Dr Michael Ashenden accused the anti-doping movement of fostering a culture of “omerta” — a term describing the pact of silence in the mafia. He said the imposition of a new confidentiality clause in his contract was an attempt to silence him. Since 2008 he has been an independent reviewer of blood profiles in cycling. The governing bodies of professional cycling and international athletics extensively use the passport.

The UCI, World Cycling’s International (UCI), which governs cycling, thanked Dr Ashenden for his contribution to the sport but made no direct comment on the circumstances of his resignation. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), which oversees athletics, acknowledged that Dr Ashenden had declined an offer to be part of their expert panel.

Dr Ashenden is regarded as one of the world’s foremost experts on blood doping and the athlete’s biological passport. He has acted as an expert witness in high-profile cases, including those of Lance Armstrong and Alberto Contador. Both cycling and athletics have recently handed over management of the biological passport to a newly created Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU), based at the Swiss Laboratory for Doping Analyses (LAD) in Lausanne. The APMU has issued new contracts to its experts, with much tighter confidentiality clauses.

Scientists raise energy level at Big Bang machine

GENEVA, 7 April — Scientists say a Big Bang machine, where high-energy beams of protons are sent crashing into each other at incredible speeds, is now able to operate at a record new energy level, improving the prospect of scientific breakthroughs.

Researchers at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, say the $10 billion Large Hadron Collider in a 27-kilometer (17-mile) tunnel under the Swiss-French border at Geneva has begun operating at trillion-electron volts, greater than any previous physics accelerator.

Steve Myers, a director of accelerators and technology at CERN, said in a statement that two proton beams were brought into collision at a new world record energy level Thursday. He says it marks a new round of data collection through the remainder of the year, and “increased discovery potential.”

Two salmon-eating sea lions killed at Bonneville Dam

BARTLETT says the sea lions were captured Tuesday.

The killings are limited to California sea lions documented as targeting spring chinook or steelhead near Bonneville Dam, the first dam the returning fish encounter on their run up the Columbia River. The sea lions also must return to the dam despite nonlethal hazing and be spotted nearby for at least five days, though the days can accumulate over several years. The Humane Society of the United States has filed suit in an effort to permanently end the sea lion killings.

Ex-Intel employee pleads guilty to theft charges

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 April — A former Intel Corp employee who allegedly stole from the chipmaker documents worth hundreds of millions of dollars pleaded guilty on Friday to five counts of wire fraud. Federal prosecutors in Boston had alleged that Biswa Mohan Pani, 36, downloaded some of Intel’s “most valuable” design and manufacturing documents in June 2008, in his final days as an engineer in Massachusetts.

Intel was not aware at the time of the alleged downloads that Pani had already sought a position and begun working at Advanced Micro Devices, Intel’s largest rival in the chip industry. Pani acted alone and there was no evidence that he was directed by AMD or AMD’s director of security and privacy division, said an AMD spokesman, who declined to be named.

In court filings, Intel estimated the company secrets to be worth at least $200 million to $400 million.

AMD fired Pani in 2008. “AMD was not accused of wrongdoing, and the FBI has stated that there is no evidence that AMD had any involvement in or awareness of Mr Pani’s alleged actions,” said Drew Prairie, a spokesman for AMD.

Pani faces up to 20 years in prison on each count, and is scheduled to be sentenced on 8 August. A lawyer for Pani did not immediately respond to a request for comment late Friday.

Sushi-making robots can crank out tasty fish rolls 24 hours a day

NEW YORK, 7 April — Like many traditional dishes, great sushi is as much about the skill of the chef as it is the quality of the ingredients, and we all know by now that there’s no person on the planet that can match the dexterity of a robot. Japanese company Suzumo feels the same way, and while it claims to have created the very first sushi-making robot way back in 1981, its newest automaton puts all others — and almost all humans — to shame.

The new bots work as a team: one machine creates the all-important sushi rice mound at a rate of 3,600 per hour, while the other takes the seaweed wrapping and raw fish and folds it into the perfect roll. Working at its maximum rate, the robotic roll can craft approximately 100 medium-sized rolls per hour, which averages out to 10 rolls every two minutes. The current human world record sushi roller is Joakim Lundbladh, whose record stands at 12 rolls in two minutes.

Of course, while Lundbladh put every ounce of energy into that two-minute world record, the Suzumo bot can work at its maximum speed 24/7. If the two were put together head-to-head in a marathon sushi-rolling throwdown, the winner would likely be the one with a power plug on its backside. Check out the bots in action above, and try not to get too hungry.

Draw Something is ‘fastest growing’ mobile game

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 April — Mobile game Draw Something has been downloaded 50 million times in just 50 days, the game’s owner has said. Zynga, which bought the game’s developer OMGPOP last month, said they believed the figures made it the “fastest growing” mobile game of all time. The simple game involves players drawing pictures in order to guess words, much like board game Pictionary. At peak times, Draw Something players create over 3,000 drawings per second.

Apple told the BBC that it did not disclose download figures for specific titles, and therefore could not verify Zynga’s claim. However, Draw Something’s success has been sent in to the iPhone app charts, beating the highly-anticipated sequel to Angry Birds, Angry Birds Space. In a statement, Zynga said: “We believe it’s not only the fastest growing original mobile game of all time — 50 days to hit 50 million downloads — but one of the fastest growing web sensations that we’ve seen.”

The company said that nearly 6 billion drawings have been created on the app so far. In the game, players are given words to try to illustrate by drawing on a smartphone or tablet’s touchscreen. If the friend guesses correctly, coins are earned to purchase additional items, such as more colours, and the home screen will show a stat written up for the game’s popularity by offering fake prizes via social networks like Twitter.

Last month, Zynga, which owns other popular social gaming platform FarmVille, bought small New York-based developer OMGPOP for $180m (£113m; 137m euros). After news of the buyout broke, OMGPOP chief executive Dan Porter attracted criticism after tweeting that a former employee — who did not want to work with Zynga — was “selfish” and the “weakest one on the whole team”. Mr Porter later apologised.
Planning pregnancy may cut birth defects

New York, 7 April — Women who ‘like to become pregnant’ — especially those who are taking medications for chronic conditions — may need to add something to their to-do list: plan, plan, plan. That’s because some medications are known to cause birth defects. Avoiding all medications during pregnancy is not always possible, however, and sometimes not taking a prescribed medication could be harmful, too.

“The best thing for women to do, all women, is to plan their pregnancy,” said Dr. Diane Ashton, deputy medical director for the March of Dimes. “Women should speak with their physician about their plans to become pregnant. If they have a condition that requires medication, that’s an ideal time to switch to medications that are riskless or necessary. And, it gives time for the condition to be stabilized.” About 120,000 babies born each year in the United States — or about one of every 33 — are born with a birth defect, something abnormal that occurs in a baby’s development, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some are more cosmetic than dangerous, such as an extra toe, but others are serious and include heart defects and spina bifida. Birth defects are the leading cause of death in babies younger than 1 year, according to the National Birth Defects Prevention Network.

Most birth defects happen in the early stages of pregnancy, often before a woman even knows she’s pregnant, according to the CDC.

Green tea could cloud Olympic doping tests

LONDON, 7 April — Olympic officials are considering whether to tweak the tests after a recent British study showed green tea could hide testosterone from the standard test used to spot it.

The study was a test in a lab, and scientists aren’t sure if the effects will be the same in people. But some experts say the results are intriguing enough that Olympic testing could be updated to include that possibility. “It’s interesting that something as common as tea could have a significant influence on the steroid profile,” said Olivier Rabin, scientific director of the World Anti-Doping Agency, or WADA. He said other foods and beverages, such as alcohol, are also known to interfere. In the study, researchers added green and white tea extracts — or catechins — to testosterone and tested whether the enzyme that usually detects testosterone in the body could still identify it. Tea seemed to reduce the testosterone concentration by up to 30 percent and appeared to work best when testosterone was only slightly higher than normal.

Tax evasion treaty signed by Switzerland and Germany

GENEVA, 7 April — Germany has signed a new tax evasion treaty with Switzerland, but opposition MPs are threatening to block it. If approved, the deal could bring Germany 10bn euros (€8.3bn, $13.1bn) next year, its finance ministry estimates.

The agreement is the latest in a long-running dispute about German nationals who hide taxable income in banks in neighbouring Switzerland. It was toughened after opposition MPs objected, but may still be voted down. It is not clear how much money Germans have hidden abroad.

JJB Sports shares boosted by US investment

LONDON, 7 April — Shares in JJB Sports have risen more than 10% after the retailer announced a £30m investment package, which will see US retailer Dick’s Sporting Goods take a stake in the firm. The initial £20m investment from Dick’s will purchase ordinary shares and convertible loan notes. Existing shareholders will invest £10m. It came as Wigan-based JJB said pre-tax losses for the year to 29 January 2012 narrowed to £0.1m from £1.81m. JJB shares closed up 4.6% on Thursday.

This is a 27 March, 2012 file photo of baby Andrei, eight months old, son of Roma under age parents as he is held by a nurse in the intensive care unit of the Maria Curie children’s hospital, in Bucharest, Romania.

Internet

An employee poses with Samsung Electronics’ Galaxy phones at a store in Seoul on 14 March, 2012. — INTERNET

Samsung estimates record first quarter profit; beats most bullish view

SEOUL, 7 April — Samsung Electronics, the world’s top technology firm by revenue, estimated operating profit nearly doubled in January-March from a year ago, boosted by sales of its flagship Galaxy smartphones and its Note mini-tablet and phone.

The South Korean group, which out-sold global smartphone rivals last year, is set to consolidate its market position with new products, including a revamped Galaxy S, in the next few months. Samsung, which will release its full quarterly results on 27 April, estimated its January-March operating profit at a record 5.8 trillion won ($5.15 billion) versus a consensus forecast of 5.0 trillion won from analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. Its estimated sales at 45 trillion won.

Samsung shares have risen by a quarter so far this year, and hit a life high of 1.351 million won ($1.20) on Wednesday. Over the same period, shares in smartphone rival Apple have soared by more than half, taking the California-based firm’s value to above $582 billion — more than three times that of Samsung. ($1 = 1127.2750 Korean won)

Internet

JJB said it had been an ‘extremely challenging’ period.— INTERNET

JJB Sports shares boosted by US investment

The UK retailer is in the process of a restructuring programme that includes closing 43 of its stores. Revenues for the year fell 21.7% to £284.2m. JJB said the year had been ‘extremely challenging’ and said that sales had continued to fall since the end of its financial year. Like-for-like sales for the nine weeks to 1 April 2012 were down 5.7%, while the company’s net debt had risen to £20.6m from £11.3m at the end of January.

JJB said that the investment from Dick’s gave it the opportunity to draw on the US firm’s experience in the sports retail market. On conversion of its purchased loan notes, Dick’s will become a controlling shareholder. JJB said at least one representative from Dick’s was expected to join the board. The other £10m investment comes from four existing shareholders, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dick’s also has the right to buy a further £20m of convertible loan notes next year.

As part of the refinancing package, JJB said that supplier Adidas would provide security for a two-stage loan of up to £30m to fund store refits and that Bank of Scotland would extend existing loan facilities until May 2015. JJB said it hopes to accelerate its store refurb programme in time for this summer’s European football championships and the London Olympics. — INTERNET

Resistance spread ‘compromising’ fight against malaria

LONDON, 7 April — Scientists have found new evidence that resistance to the front-line treatments for malaria is increasing. They have confirmed that resistant strains of the malaria parasite on the border between Thailand and Myanmar, 500 miles (800km) away from previous sites. Researchers say that the rise of resistance means the effort to eliminate malaria is “seriously compromised”. The details have been published in the Lancet medical journal.

For many years now the most effective drugs against malaria have been derived from the Chinese plant, Artemisia annua. It is also known as sweet wormwood. In 2009 researchers found that the most deadly species of malaria parasites, spread by mosquitoes, were becoming more resistant to these drugs in parts of western Cambodia. This new data confirms that these Plasmodium falciparum parasites that are infecting patients more than 500 miles away on the border between Thailand and Myanmar are growing steadily more resistant.

INTERNET

Malaria is spread by mosquitoes. — INTERNET

German politicians have long complained about Switzerland’s strict banking secrecy. — INTERNET

Switzerland’s secretive banks have faced growing pressure internationally as governments try to recover taxes in the wake of the financial crisis.

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**Israeli chefs target every last crumb for Passover**

Tel Aviv, 7 April — The Jewish springtime holiday of Passover is known as a festival of freedom, but its hallmark is a litany of dietary restrictions centered on not eating leavened bread for a week.

The rules are so elaborate that chefs who want to observe the ritual law must prepare weeks before, removing every last crumb, buying up new sets of kitchen utensils and planning menus without bread or wheat flour. At Liliyot, one of Tel Aviv’s most prestigious kosher restaurants, chef Noam Dekkers oversees his staff on Wednesday, their last regular day in the kitchen before the annual Passover scrubdown—a process he calls “logistical mayhem.” The holiday begins on Friday at sundown.

At the end of the day, Dekkers’ cooks threw away leftovers like chopped vegetables and fish. Then, they stored plastic cutting boards and boxes, locked glued away and scrubbed all steel cooking ware.

The following morning, city rabbis oversee the final sterilization, when the restaurant staff blowtorched grease off the grills and dunked all the metal and glass cooking utensils into cauldrons of boiling water. At 7 a.m. today, Liliyot was kosher for Passover.

“Tel Aviv is a secular city,” said Dekkers, a nonobservant Jewish Israeli. “But quite a big part of the community keeps the Jewish religious traditions, especially of the holidays.”

**Mazda to recall more than 62,000 vehicles in China**

Beijing, 7 April— Mazda Motor’s joint venture partners in China will recall more than 62,000 vehicles from Sunday to fix problems with anti-lock braking systems that could cause false warnings, China’s quality regulator said.

The three-party joint venture with Ford Motor and Chongqing Changan Automobile will recall 58,949 Chongqing Changan Automobile will recall 58,949 vehicles in September and October for a problem with anti-lock braking systems on the Mazda 6.

China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said on its website.

The move comes on the heels of Mazda recalling 16,857 vehicles in September 2010 because of a similar problem. Joint venture executives could not be reached for comment on Sunday.

**Texas residents sift through rubble from tornadoes**

Forney, 7 April — A small twister bore down on her neighborhood, Sherry Enoch grabbed the three young children in her home and hid in her bathtub. The winds snatched and snatched away two of the children. Her home collapsed around her. Miraculously, no one was seriously hurt. Enochs, 53, stood Wednesday amid the wreckage of what was once her home in the North Texas City of Forney, one of the hardest hit by a series of tornadoes that barreled through one of the nation’s largest metropolitan areas a day earlier. No one was reported dead, and of the more than 20 injured, only a handful were seriously hurt. “If you really think about it, the fact that everybody who woke up in Forney yesterday is alive today in Forney, that’s a real blessing,” Mayor Darren Rozell said.

The National Weather Service is investigating the damage caused by the tornadoes, which appeared to flatten some homes and graze others next door. The twisters jumped from place to place, passing many heavily populated areas overhead and perhaps limiting what could have been a more damaging, deadly storm.

While tornadoes can strike major cities, having two major systems strike a single metropolitan area is highly unusual, meteorologist Jesse Moore said. The Texas twisters would have done more damage had they stayed on the ground for more of the storms’ path.

**French academic Descoings found dead in New York hotel**

New York, 7 April — The head of one of France’s most prestigious academic institutions has been found dead in a New York hotel room, police say. The naked body of Richard Descoings, 53, director of the Paris Institute of Political Studies, was discovered at the Michelangelo hotel in Manhattan. His laptop and mobile phone were found on a third-floor ledge. A police spokesperson has said that there was “no sign of violence.”

Descoings was known for far-reaching reform at Sciences Po, which educates city rabbis oversaw the final sterilization, when the restaurant staff blowtorched grease off the grills and dunked all the metal and glass cooking utensils into cauldrons of boiling water. At 7 a.m. today, Liliyot was kosher for Passover.

“The idea is to better prepare people for potential tornadoes, having two major systems strike a single metropolitan area is highly unusual, meteorologist Jesse Moore said. The Texas twisters would have done more damage had they stayed on the ground for more of the storms’ path.”

The National Weather Service on Monday plans to begin a new initiative in Kansas and Missouri designed to make people in Tornado Alley sit up and take notice when potentially devastating twisters are headed their way. Under the new system, tornado warnings will be accompanied by stark language like, “mass devastation is highly likely, making the area unrecognizable to survivors,” according to the National Weather Service. Or even: “This storm is not survivable. We call this a ‘tornado-based warning.’”

Dan Hwbiltzil, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, said on Sunday, “The idea is to better convey the impact that storms is likely to have on a community.”

Current National Weather Service tornado warnings generally cover portions of counties and urge people in the storm’s path to take action. “There is quite a lot of over-warning going on; it’s kind of the car-alarm syndrome,” said Col. Galayan, a meteorologist with the National Weather Channel. “People who live in areas where tornadoes happen frequently, like Joplin, Missouri, for example, are kind of becoming desensitized to the warnings.”

A tornado slammed into Joplin last May, killing 161 people in the southwestern Missouri City and causing extensive damage. The new warnings will be tested in the two states through November 30. After that, a panel of social scientists and meteorologists will examine the responses and determine whether the system should be used nationwide, Hawthilzil said. Messages such as, “Complete destruction of entire neighborhood likely” may get more people posting on social networking sites and taking instant action, Hawthilzil said.

Galyean and Hawthilzil say the more detailed warnings are largely made possible because of a new use of Doppler radar called dual polarization, which can measure both the horizontal and vertical properties of a storm system and tell forecasters whether debris is being picked up by the storm, a sure sign of a destructive system. “Right now it’s tough to tell if a storm is actually causing damage,” Galyean said. — Reuters
Yenwe Dam in Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region.

Dams supplying irrigation water, drinking water, enhancing agricultural sector in Bago Region

Yenwe Dam
* Yenwe Dam is built on Yenwe Creek near Myochaung Village in Kyaukdaga Township.
* It is 1050 ft long and 251 ft high. The dam is an earthen type.

Zaungtu Dam
* It can prevent floods in its environs in Bago Township.
* It benefits over 36000 acres of farmland.

Baida Diversion Weir
* The diversion weir is located in DaikU Township, Bago Region. It is an reinforced concrete type.
* It is 20.5 ft high, 250 ft wide and 98 ft long.
* The main canal of the dam is 15 miles long with four tributary canals which are 57 miles long in total.
* The dam can prevent floods over Pyuntaza plain and Yangon-Mandalay Road and rail roads in rainy season.
* The dam can benefit 46700 acres of farmland.

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Soy may alleviate menopause hot flashes

NEWARK, 7 April — Two daily servings of soy might reduce the frequency and severity of hot flashes by up to 26 percent compared with a placebo, US researchers found. Study co-author Melissa Melby, a medical anthropology professor at the University of Delaware, reviewed 19 previous studies that examined more than 1,200 women. The effectiveness of soy in alleviating hot flashes has been inconclusive — some studies suggested soy to be beneficial and others suggested it was not — but much of the discrepancy was due to small sample sizes and inconsistent methodology, Melby said. “When you combine them all, we’ve found the overall effect is still positive,” Melby said in a statement. The study published in Menopause: The Journal of the North American Menopause Association found ingesting at least 54 milligrams of soy isoflavones daily — about two glasses (16 ounces) of soy milk or 7 ounces of tofu — for six weeks to a year reduces menopause hot flash frequency by 20.6 percent and severity by 26 percent, compared to a placebo.

Women can’t rewind ‘biological clock’

NEW HAVEN, 7 April — Despite advances in reproductive techniques many women in their 40s do not know their chances of having a child is low, US fertility experts said. Dr Pasquale Patrizio, professor at Yale School of Medicine and director of the Yale Fertility Center, and colleagues said more women are coming to the fertility clinic at age 43 or older expecting pregnancy can be instantly achieved — and they’re disappointed to learn that it can’t be done easily.

“There is an alarming misconception about fertility among women,” Patrizio said in a statement. “We are really seeing more and more patients ‘upset’ after failing in having their own biological child after age 43 so we had to report on this....
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham…

The Vice-President then presented Chinese agriculturalists with gifts and viewed 19-day old and 22-day old hybrid paddy plantations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that as an agricultural country, Myanmar is trying for successful cultivation of paddy as well as other crops. In doing so, coordinate measures are being taken with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to acquire necessary techniques. He next invited open questions for any requirements stressing the need for efforts of the farmers while departments are fulfilling requirements. Only then, will the agricultural sector improve as expected. Moreover, research and development are essential for every nation. It is necessary to develop the sector not only in the Nay Pyi Taw area but also in the whole nation. Success will surely be achieved if agricultural tasks meet the input requirements such as quality strains and fertilizers. Carrying out such tasks needs capital so it will be difficult for a single farmer to do that by himself, noted the Vice-President. The State on its part will be able to render all assistance only if it is economically strong and it may cause a barrier. This is why the private contribution is also necessary, said the Vice-President.

He went on to say that although there is not much difference of cultivation acreage between Myanmar and neighbours, there is difference in export volume. Therefore, the State, experts and farmers need to conduct study after considering and reviewing. The State is carrying out eight rural development tasks and paying emphasis on micro-credit services as well as the improvement of agricultural and meat and fish sectors.

The Vice-President added that looking to the developed countries, they are found to have been focusing on industrial development and engaging in agricultural tasks with the use of modern machinery. For Myanmar which relies on agriculture for fulfilling people’s basic needs, it is to introduce mechanized farming in order to improve the agricultural sector. If the nation can develop the industrial sector while engaging in agricultural work, its economy will develop as well. Technology and capital are necessary to change the conventional farming into mechanized farming. Only if national economy develops, will the State be able to render assistance in such sectors as education and health for the wellbeing of the entire national people.

The Vice-President continued that farmers are to work hard accepting advice of experts to be successful in their agricultural business. Regarding the agricultural loans, farmers need to pay their debts regularly so that additional loans can be disbursed for next years. As the technique to grow Palethwe hybrid paddy strains is the best for the time being, that strain should be grown nationwide, noted the Vice-President. Later, he spoke of the need for technicians to develop methods that can benefit in the long run, for the private sector to try to acquire all necessary agricultural inputs and for all people to work together for national development. — MNA
Myanmar hockey, a sport event to bring honour to the nation

T.S. (NLM)

Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman’s Hockey Tournament being held at Theinbyu Hockey Pitch.

Year English women adopted the game and organized the first women’s club in East Moseley. In 1895 the English Ladies Hockey Association, subsequently called the All-England Women’s Hockey Association, was founded and proceeded to popularize the game for women throughout the world. A Women’s Hockey Federation established in 1927 included a membership of 35 countries by the early 1970s.

Field hockey is a major sport in the British Isles, where the modern game was developed. And it was widely played in continental Europe and in most Commonwealth countries, especially Indian, Pakistan and Australia. As hockey has been a permanent part of the Olympic Games since 1928, it spread to all parts of the world. It is now one of the events of Summer Olympics held once in every four years. It is also included in the Asian Games and ASEAN Games.

Nowadays, the State is undertaking a series of activities to promote sports and games so that the standard of sports in the country will gradually reach the world level in accordance with the motto “Myanmar Sports—the World to Conquer”. Among the many different kinds of sports, hockey is being given a place receiving encouragement from the government, for success in sports is a source of national pride.

Now is a time when people are to take part in sports as a national concern. All sports federations and those responsible in different events of sports must make field tours right down to the grassroots levels, hunt for talented athletes and train them well so that they will become outstanding ones. In this context, the Myanmar Hockey Federation was reconstituted with the motto “To promote hockey in the entire country right down to the grassroots levels,”.

In the past, games similar to modern field hockey were played in many parts of the world. The Arabs used curved sticks and a ball fashioned from palm fibres and esparto and the Indians of North and South America used bone stick and a deerskin ball as crooked-stick game was played in England.

“Modern field hockey, however, evolved in the British Isles early in the 19th century, the first organized club, Blackheath, being established in 1840. The style of play undoubtedly developed from the stick and ball games as hurling, played in Ireland; shinty, in Scotland; and bandy, in Wales.

The name was derived from the French word hoquet (shepherd’s crook). In the 19th century, English schools and clubs such as Blackheath, Mosely and Wembley produced most of the players and competitors; and in 1875 the Men’s Hockey Association of London published revised regulations, which reduced the size of the ground and goal posts and number of players in a team.

About this time the British Army was introducing the game to the Commonwealth countries, and Indian later adopted the game as its own national sports.

In 1906, men’s group in England, Ireland and Wales united to form the International Hockey Board. When the Scots joined in 1942, the rules become uniform throughout the British Isles. In 1948 the Federation Internationale de Hockey formed in Paris in 1924 became a constituent body of the board. All the FIH member countries recognized the authority of the board.

Until 1887, hockey was played exclusively by men and was regarded too rough and dangerous for women. But in that year, the Indians of Chile used crooked sticks to drive a ball through a goal in a game called cincou, probably an adoption of chucca, a popular game that was brought to the new world.

In the 17th century, the youths holding curved sticks or hitting a ball with them. In the 17th century, the Indians of Chile used crooked sticks to hit a ball as crooked-stick game was played in England. The game was played at the BA Grounds in Yangon. Later, it was played at the Theinbyu Grounds also known as the Theinbyu Hockey Pitch. There were men’s teams as well as women’s teams and the same of the tournaments were the Open Knockout Tournament, Hockey League Tournament, the Knockout Tournament, etc.

Now that the State is giving encouragement to all events of sports including hockey with a view to ensuring achievements in sports as the 27th SEA Games which is a decisive factor for Myanmar athletes is drawing near. And I am sure that more and more athletes will come to take part in hockey as it is also one of the sports events of the 27th SEA Games to be held in Myanmar in 2013.

Philippines Ambassador meets UMFCCI President

YANGON, 7 APRIL — Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ms Maria Hellen Barber met President U Win Aung and CEC member Dr Thin Naw Win of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the office of the federation at 1:30 pm on 22 March.

At the call, they discussed signing the MoU on economic cooperation between the UMFCCI and Philippine Chambers of Commerce and Industry, visit of the Philippine entrepreneurs to Myanmar, promotion of Philippine-Myanmar trade, holding of economic forums between entrepreneurs of Philippines and Myanmar and observation at agro-based value-added products in a cordial manner.

New library put into service in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 7 April — A ceremony to open Dhammasami Library was held at Namlan Myole Monastery in Hispaw Township of Kyaukme District on 21 March, unveiled by Sayadaw Dr Dhammasami.

Sayadaw Dr Dhammasami handed over K 2.7 million for the library, wellowers K 560,000 and books to the library supervisory committee.

After that, the departments, members of religious and social organizations and local people paid homage to Professor of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Secretary-General of International Association of Buddhist University and Association of Theravada Buddhist University Oxford Buddha Vihara Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Dhammasami offered Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha title by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Namlan Myoe Monastery of Hispaw Bhaddanta Namoahosa.

Myanmar Alin

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Myanmar Alin

Antiphonal chant teams to enjoy Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival

 Mandalay, 7 April — In the Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME, Mandalay moats will be packed with four decorated pavilions, 31 water throwing floats and one local pavilion, 31 water throwing packed with four decorated ball with them. In the 17th century, the youths holding curved sticks or hitting a ball as crooked-stick game was played in England. The game was played at the BA Grounds in Yangon. Later, it was played at the Theinbyu Grounds also known as the Theinbyu Hockey Pitch. There were men’s teams as well as women’s teams and the same of the tournaments were the Open Knockout Tournament, Hockey League Tournament, the Knockout Tournament, etc.

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Training courses conclude at Vocational Training School

PUTAO, 7 April—The basic domestic science course No. 21 and the advanced tailoring course No. 15 concluded at Women’s Vocational Training School in Putao of Putao District in Kachin State on 23 March.

At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner U Lin Thu of Putao Township Haing Tun of District General Administration Department gave prizes to the trainees in the basic domestic science course. Chairperson of Putao Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Myat Min Thein, who presented the disciplinary award to the trainee; and Principal of the training school Daw Khin Mar Yin gave completion certificates to the trainees.

Reserved seats on highway buses for service personnel during Maha Thingyan period

YANGON, 7 April—Seats will be reserved on highway buses and express buses for service personnel for their convenient traveling during the days of Maha Thingyan festival, according to the officials of the Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal.

“Directives have been issued to bus lines to take eight seats reservation for service personnel compulsorily if the personnel buy the seats for emergent traveling. Although there will be least number of highway buses on their runs during the days of Maha Thingyan festival, reserved seats are to be left for personnel before and during the days of Maha Thingyan festival,” he said.

Insein Township WJA donates books

YANGON, 7 April—The book donations of Insein Township Writers and Journalists Association to Kyakko Township Information and Public Relations Department was held at the Dhammayon of Kyakko Township. Vice-Chairman of Insein Township Writers and Journalists Association U Bo Kyi (Dr Bo Thanmani) and member present books to Staff Officer Daw Hla Hla Oo of Mawlamyine District IPRD and Head of Township IPRD Daw Thida Aye.

CASH DONATED: A ceremony to donate cash assistance to the aged of above-80 years old was held in conjunction with the talks about women’s health knowledge at Kandaw Mingala Hall in Meiktila on 22 March. Patron of Mandalay Region WAO and MCWSC Daw Myat Ngwe presents K 500,000 each to Township MCWA and MCWA. —MYANNA ALIN

Prevvention against animal disease talked

HOWN, 7 April—A talk on bio-security and prevention against animal diseases was given in Tatwin Village of Hopin Township in Mohnyin District in Kachin State on 25 March afternoon.

The talk was attended by livestock breeding entrepreneurs of the state. Head of Hopin Sub-Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Zaw Myint Naing explained bio-security and animal diseases. —MYANNA ALIN

Cash assistance for rice, uniform provided in Htatainbin

YANGON, 3 April—A ceremony to provide rice service personnel and cash assistance for uniforms was held at the office of Township General Administration Department in Htatainbin Township of Yangon Region.

MYANNA ALIN

MLF invites donations of cash, books

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broadening the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation. Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.
James Murdoch quits as BSkyB chairman

LONDON, 7 April — James Murdoch resigned as chairman of BSkyB on Tuesday to prevent his links to a tablet phone-hacking scandal from undermining the pay TV group, which has so far escaped the worst of the damage convulsing its controlling shareholder News Corp.

In a bitter blow to Murdoch, until last year seen as heir apparent to his father Rupert's media empire, James said he would step down from the British pay-TV company where he made his name as a talented executive in his own right.

"I am aware of my role as Chairman could become a lightning rod for BSkyB and I believe that my resignation will help to ensure that there is no false conflation with events at a separate organization," Murdoch said.

The 39-year-old is a previous chairman of News International, News Corp's British newspaper arm that published the News of the World tabloid at the heart of the scandal. News of the World was shut down last year.

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With sights set on Romney, Obama says eager for campaign

WASHINGTON, 7 April — President Barack Obama on Thursday called out his likely opponent for the White House by name for the second time this week and said he “cannot wait” for the chance to pit his vision for America against the Republicans in this year’s election.

In remarks that underscore the president’s shift into full general election-fighting mode, Obama acknowledged Mitt Romney was the front-runner to win the Republican nomination to face him on 6 November, and said he relished the upcoming contest.

"We are going to have a big and important debate in this country, and I cannot wait," the Democrat told supporters at a fundraising event in Washington. "This is going to be a big debate and it’s going to be a fun debate. It’s always good to have the truth on your side," he said.

The president had barely mentioned the former Massachusetts governor by name for months but has done so twice this week. Romney moved closer to clinching the Republican presidential nomination on Tuesday when he won three primary contests.

Obama fiercely attacked Republican presidential plans earlier this week. On Thursday he again warned supporters the plan would gut many popular social programmes, adding that it "will fail." On Thursday he again warned supporters the plan would gut many popular social programmes, adding that it "will fail."

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Malaysian police bust football betting syndicate

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 April — Malaysian police on Thursday busted a football betting syndicate and arrested 144 foreigners in an upscale residential resort in Kajang, 30 kilometres south of Kuala Lumpur.

Police raided six bungalows the syndicate had rented as betting dens following a tip-off, Selangor state police chief Hishan Hanzah told a Press conference. The suspects were said to be taking bets for the European Champions League using laptops and telephones during the raid.

The syndicate was also involved in illegal online gambling and Internet scams and had raked in billions of ringgit in bets and stakes over the past month.

Police seized 35,800 ringgit (11,674.5 US dollars) in cash, 241 telephones, 43 laptops and 48 modems in the raid.— MNA/Reuters

Singapore PM donates $280,000 to set up three awards

SINGAPORE, 7 April — Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is donating 350,000 Singapore dollars (280,000 US dollars) to set up three new awards to promote community bonding, social services and the arts, he announced on Thursday.

"I hope that these donations and awards will encourage charities and volunteers to continue their excellent work to make Singapore a better home for all," Lee said in a statement. The Prime Minister announced in 2007 following the ministerial salary adjustments that he would donate the increase in his salary to charity in the next five years. This year is the fifth year of his donations.

This year, Lee is giving to a range of community, grassroots, youth, arts and welfare organizations and also donating the 350,000 Singapore dollars to establish the awards. He will be donating 200,000 Singapore dollars (160,000 US dollars) towards a Community Initiatives Fund to sponsor projects initiated by the People’s Association towards the goal of a more inclusive and united community.

Another 100,000 Singapore dollars (80,000 US dollars) will go to Prime Minister’s Social Fund to provide people to choose social service careers. The other 50,000 Singapore dollars (40,000 US dollars) will go to a Prime Minister’s Valuation Award for the top student in each graduating cohort from the School of the Arts.— MNA/Alvinhau

Japan’s prime minister donates $2.2 million to set up new school

TOKYO, 7 April — Japan’s Prime Minister Naoto Kan said Thursday he will give 2.2 billion yen ($26 million) to the World Food Programme (WFP) to set up a new school in the Horn of Africa.

A new school will be built in the semi-autonomous region of Somaliland--a part of Somalia—following several years of conflict that have disrupted education in the area. The facility will be capable of serving 2,000 students.

Kan, who is also the minister in charge of the nation’s response to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, said he would also provide 100 million yen ($1.2 million) to help in the reconstruction of the Horn of Africa.

"The request came from the president of the World Food Programme, and I am glad to announce my decision to support this request," Kan told a news conference.

His aid package comes amid widespread criticism of the government’s response to the disaster. Japan has been criticized for its slow response to the disaster, and the lack of coordination between various government agencies.

The move by the prime minister comes as the international community has stepped up efforts to provide aid to the region, which has been devastated by poverty, conflict and natural disasters.

Trees save woman from out-of-control truck

HOUSTON, 7 April — A truck driver was killed but a 95-year-old Houston woman was unharmed Thursday when an 18-wheeler crashed into a tree she planted in her yard 40 years ago. The driver was in the cab of the vehicle when he had a heart attack. Paramedics took the man, whose name was not reported, to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Alice Wright said she slept the truck crashing into her yard, stopping just short of her bedroom, but credits the Live Oak tree she planted there with saving her life. KHOU-TV, Houston, reported. "My neighbour across the street called me and said, 'Are you all right,' and I said, 'What's the matter,' and she said, "Oh, Mrs. Wright you don't know that truck is in your yard and could have come in your house.""

"I’m just so thankful to the good Lord it was there, to stop that truck, I tell you," Wright said. Wright told KHOU she got the tree in the early 1960s when she was in Cleveland, Texas. "Me and my niece went out there and dug them — she got one and I got one — they were little birch saplings then," she said.

Federal police escort drug suspect Jose Antonio Acosta Hernandez, "El Diego", as he is presented to the media during a news conference at the federal police headquarters in Mexico City on 31 July, 2011.— Reuters

Mexican gang member sentenced to life in US prison for murders

AUSTIN, 7 April — A senior member of a Mexican drug cartel was sentenced to life in prison in a US court on Thursday after authorities implicated him in more than 5,500 murders, including the 2010 execution of a US consular employee in northern Mexico. Jose Antonio Acosta Hernandez, 34, pleaded guilty to 11 counts that included murder, conspiracy to kill people in a foreign country and various racketeering, money laundering and drug charges.

US District Judge Kathleen Cardone in El Paso, Texas, sentenced Hernandez to seven concurrent life terms and three additional consecutive life terms. The defendant directed or participated in over 1,500 murders since 2008, "according to the plea agreement with Hernandez, who was extradited from Mexico in March.

Hernandez was in charge of the armed enforcement wing of the Juarez Drug Cartel, which had formed an alliance with the Barrio Azteca drug gang that operated in Texas and Mexico to control the Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico-drug trafficking, prosecutors said in the court papers.

Ciudad Juarez has served as a major route for smuggling narcotics into the United States. He ordered his men to kill four individuals including two Mexican police officers, the plea said.

Maritime officials filed the charges against China Shipping, a subsidiary of Greek shipping giant Costamare. The charge carried a maximum fine of NZ$660,000 ($489,000, £308,000). The company faces additional fines of NZ$10,000 for each day the offence continues.
North Sea gas leak plug ‘achievable’

ABERDEEN, 7 April — A plan to plug a leaking North Sea platform well is ‘achievable’ next week, an oil and gas firm said Friday following a visit to a well head that is spewing a cloud of potentially explosive gas. A team of experts spent four hours Thursday visiting the Elgin platform, which is operated by French energy giant Total. It was the first time the well head had been inspected since the platform’s 238 crew were evacuated on 25 March when the leak was detected.

“We achieved our goals. Everything went as we would have hoped and the planned well intervention is achievable,” Texas-based outside experts Wild Well Control said after visiting the platform alongside staff from the operator who are familiar with its construction. The firm said there were certainly no surprise obstacles to launching their operation. Specialists will revisit the platform in the coming days to develop detailed plans for pumping the problem G4 well head full of “heavy mad” at high pressure so as to seal it. In a statement, Total said the team found no gas on the processing platform and the 90-metre (yard) bridge to the well head platform was also free of gas. The structural condition of that platform, G4 and the surrounding rig were unchanged since the evacuation, as were safety situations. The visual inspection confirmed that the leak is coming from the G4 well head at Well Head Platform deck level. In parallel a remote operated vehicle survey confirmed no underwater gas leak, Total said. 

Ookstaden University has been called the “Princeton of Pot” and the “Harvard of Hemp”

Authorities have not explained why they raided the centre. Monday’s raid saw officers from federal tax and drug agencies confiscated marijuana, computers and files relating to Mr Lee’s business.

‘No attacks’ launched from Afghanistan after 2014

KABUL, 7 April — Afghan soil will not be used to launch attacks against any country after foreign troops withdraw, the war-torn nation’s foreign minister told Al Jazeera in an interview, excerpts of which were received by AFP on Friday. “Afghan soil will not be used against any country in the region,” Zalmai Rassoul said, when asked if the United States would be allowed to continue drone attacks on Pakistan after all foreign combat troops withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

“The presence of the remaining foreign forces in Afghanistan is for training, equipping and securing our national security. It has been mentioned, it is going to be mentioned, that this force is not for use against any country in the region,” Rassoul told the Doha-based television channel.

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Big lottery winners often prize anonymity

Big lottery winners often prize anonymity. Though their precise location in the top 10 depends on how you define them. If you convert the local price into dollars, the UK is the fifth most expensive in Europe. The 60p it will soon cost for a first class stamp is $0.96, behind Finland, Switzerland, Denmark and, in first place, Norway—where a first class stamp costs $1.67 (9.5 kroner). If you adjust for the relative purchasing power of the different countries, the UK is in seventh place among European countries. Ahead of it are Denmark in sixth place, Norway in fifth, then Poland, Latvia, Slovakia and, in the top spot, Bulgaria. Posting a letter in Bulgaria only costs 0.65 Lev ($0.68) but to most Bulgarians that is a deal. When the Royal Mail does these calculations, using slightly different purchasing power calculators, it places the UK in ninth position. That’s Europe’s 10 most expensive countries to post a letter.

What about the world’s? "In the BBC’s survey of 65 nations around the world, "Norway’s $1.67 postage stamp comes up on top. The post office there, Posten Norge, told the BBC its prices reflect competition from new technology, such as Skype.

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Vet removes golf ball from rat snake
A snake that swallowed a golf ball in Low Country South Carolina has a new lease on life thanks to surgery and a new career in environmental education.
A couple spotted the yellow rat snake trying to cross a road in Beaufort, The Island Packet reported. In the snake’s first big break, David Gorzynski and Kirk Gundler, who operate Beaufort Kayak Tours, are trained master naturalists. Dr. Mark Guilgud, a veterinarian who showed up to return a dog, agreed to perform the surgery.
The procedure took 10 minutes once the snake was anesthetized and was followed by an anxious period when the patient stopped breathing.
Guilgud said he has removed “golf balls, hard balls, socks, blankets, Bert and Ernie—all the kids’ toys” from dogs but the operation was his first on a snake.
The snake is believed to have eaten the ball, a Titleist, while foraging in a chicken coop.
The balls are sometimes used to encourage hens.
The Nature Centre at the Lowcountry Institute has given the snake a home. The stitches are scheduled for removal in two weeks, and Tony Mills said the snake will then be used to help educate the public on the benefits provided by rodent-eating rats.

Amanda Bynes arrested on suspicion of DUI

LOS ANGELES, 7 April— Authorities say actress Amanda Bynes has been arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence after she grazed a sheriff’s patrol car.
The 26-year-old actress was arrested around 3 am Friday in West Hollywood. The Los Angeles County sheriff’s department says that Bynes attempted to pass a patrol car making a right turn when she hit it. Deputies who arrested her suspect she was drunk at the time.
Bynes is being held on $5,000 bail. Her publicist, Melissa Rachelvogt, did not immediately return calls and an email from The Associated Press.
The actress appeared in the 2010 film “Easy A” and the Nickelodeon series “What I Like About You.”
Deputies say there was paint damage to both cars, but no one was injured.

Jesse James: I’m in an ‘awesome place’

LOS ANGELES, 7 April— US reality television star Jesse James says he thinks he is in an “awesome place” two years after actress Sandra Bullock divorced him for cheating on her. “Everyone can say whatever they want about me and call me whatever, but guess what? I’m still standing,” James told E! News.
He said he hopes it will be a “positive change” for him and his ex-wife, whom he married in 2005.

TM NETWORK

Oprah calls her new cable venture a tough climb

NEW YORK, 7 April— Oprah Winfrey is saying creating her new cable network has turned out to be a steep climb.
“I’m climbing Kilimanjaro,” she told advertisers Thursday at a presentation for OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network. She quickly explained that her Kilimanjaro is at the offices of OWN.
“You know that song, ‘The Time of My Life’? ’I’ve had the climb of my life,’ she cracked.
The network has struggled to build an audience since its launch in January 2011. It recently announced severe staff layoffs and a management shakeup with video games taken from the Ringer home on Thursday and aprevious burglary 28 March.
Investigators said the suspects were using the dog to find out if people were home at houses they chose as targets for their burglaries.
They said Stephens and the juvenile would knock on the door and tell anyone who answered that they found the dog and were trying to find the owners.

Jesse James.

Lost cat found after 16 years

Officials at a German animal shelter said a cat was reunited with its owner after spending 16 years living in the woods.
Bernhard Schoettel said his 19-year-old son, Kilian, found the cat while walking in the woods near Munich and brought it home, the New York Daily News reported Friday.
“Son immediately noticed that the animal was quite old,” Schoettel said. “He felt sorry for it because it no longer had any front teeth. The tom was very trusting. We fed him for a few days and discovered that he was tattooed, so we took him to the animal sanctuary over there.

Officials at the animal shelter said they were able to trace the cat’s identification tattoo to owner Monika Moser, who said the feline went missing 16 years ago. The shelter said the cat was well fed and healthy and is now suffering from liver and thyroid problems.

Moser, who lives about 2 miles from where the cat was found, was reunited with the animal, the shelter said.
Swans undone by Cissé strikes

Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini admits that defeat at Arsenal on Sunday could end his side’s hopes of winning the Barclays Premier League title. Defeat for City at the Emirates Stadium and victory for Manchester United at home to QPR Rangers would have left United eight points clear at the top of the table. Asked if the title race would be over if that happened, Mancini said: “If we lose against Arsenal and if they beat QPR, yes.”

Mancini, however, is still hopeful that his side can mount a fightback in the final seven matches of the season despite seeing their commanding lead over United slip away. “Why not? It’s possible. If they win all their games, congratulations, they deserve to win the title.”

“Seven games to the end, I think that everything can happen,” said Mancini. “With seven games to the end, we will see what happens. Also because we will play a derby, which will be three points. I think that six games they can lose other points.”

City could welcome back skipper Sergio Agüero after injury for the trip to Arsenal, who have won seven of their last eight League matches. The Gunners saw their winning run come to an end last weekend when they lost 3-2 at Queens Park Rangers. They have already suffered two 1-0 defeats to City so far this season—in the Carling Cup quarter-final at the Etihad and the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley.
Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR TELEVISION

(8-4-12) (Sunday)
7:00 am
1. Metta Bhavana By Mingin Sayadaw
   -Uppatasanti Paritta
7:50 am
2. Nice and Sweet Song
8:20 am
3. Dance Of Thingyan Festival
11:00 am
4. Martial Song
11:35 am
5. How it’s Works
12:00 pm
6. Myanmar Video
2:10 pm
7. International News
4:25 pm
8. Dance Of National Races
4:55 pm
9. Dance Of Thingyan Festival
5:00 pm
10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
5:05 pm
11. Dance Of Thingyan Festival
7:00 pm
12. Cartoon Series
7:50 am
13. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
14. News
5:50 pm
15. Cartoon Series
11:35 am
16. New Melody

Answer for Yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

CURETTE TOASTS
OPINION UNARMED
GAREES RESOUND
ANIMAL RIVETS
IDEA BAYO DEE
NUN HERRINGSTE
EPONYME ELOS
ALTRES CONDOS
100 REALS ERA
TROW DEFTS TAR
RELIC CODE EATIN
ALIDADE LARINE
CENTRAL VINTNER
THIGHLY ENERAS

NLM-ner Joke

I Could Use a Little Money

After receiving his son’s letter, the father immediately replies by sending a letter back.
Dear Son,
1. kN0w that astroN0my, econOmics, and oceanOgraphy are eN0ugh to keep even an hoN0 student busy. Do NOt forget that the pursuit of kN0wledge is a N0ble task, and you can never study eN0ugh.
Love,
Dad

Correct data, sown acreage inspected in Mawlamyineygun

Mawlamyineygun, 7 April—With a view to ensuring correct data for land plots and sown acreage, Assistant Director U Thein Zaw of Labutta District Settlement and Land Records Department and party met with Head of Township SLRD U Han Myo Win and staff at the township office in Mawlamyineygun Township on 21 March morning.

Tottenham felt aggrieved that Phil Bardsley and Michael Turner got away with handballs in the box, the first from a goalbound Emmanuel Adebayor header. Rafael van der Vaart had two half chances for the visitors, who have lost some of their verve since manager Harry Redknapp was made the bookmakers’ favourite for the vacant England job. In-form Newcastle United, who won 2-0 at Swansea City on Friday to go fifth, are three points behind Spurs while Chelsea are also pushing for third and host Wigan Athletic later.

Eighth-placed Sunderland, flying since manager Martin O’Neill took over in December, had their own penalty shout when the ball clipped Scott Parker on the arm but the referee was again unmoved.

Liverapool 1 - 1 A Villa
Bolton 0 - 3 Fulham
WBA 3 - 0 Blackburn
Norwich 2 - 1 Everton
Stoke 2 - 1 Wolves

Other Results

Bolton 0 - 3 Fulham
Chelsea 2 - 1 Wigan
Liverpool 1 - 1 A Villa
Norwich 2 - 1 Everton
WBA 3 - 0 Blackburn
Stoke 2 - 1 Wolves

Myanmar Alin

Tottenham Hotspur suffered a potential blow in their pursuit of third spot in the Premier League after a dire 0:0 draw at Sunderland on Saturday. The point put Spurs into the last automatic Champions League spot but Arsenal can move back into third with a draw at home to second-placed Manchester City on Sunday.
Record setting swimming contests 24-26 April

YANGON, 7 April—With the aim of choosing tentatively selected players and nurturing new generation swimmers for the XXVII SEA Games, the Myanmar Swimming Federation will hold the record setting swimming contests at the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road, here, on 24, 25 and 26 April.

The contests include the U-13 junior new generation, U 13-24 senior men’s and women’s contests.

Basic summer bowling sport course concludes

YANGON, 7 April—The basic summer bowling sport course 2012 concluded at the hall of Right Track Bowling on U Ba Kyaw Road in Tamway Township, here, yesterday morning.

At first, the trainees demonstrated their skills. Officials presented completion certificates to the trainees. — MNA

Use of common pesticide, imidacloprid, linked to bee colony collapse

WASHINGTON, 7 April—The likely culprit in sharp worldwide declines in honeybee colonies since 2006 is imidacloprid, one of the most widely used pesticides, according to a new study from Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH). The authors, led by Alex Lu write that the new research provides “convincing evidence” of the link between imidacloprid and the phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), in which adult bees abandon their hives.

The research was funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIHES) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Honeybee on knapweed. The likely culprit in sharp worldwide declines in honeybee colonies since 2006 is imidacloprid, one of the most widely used pesticides. Alex Lu wrote that the new research provides “convincing evidence” of the link between imidacloprid and the phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), in which adult bees abandon their hives.

Man who handed over his antiques rewarded

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April—U Myint Aung living in Inwagyi Village, Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region, handed over a bronze lion scale and 31 pieces of colourful jewellery to the Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department (Nay Pyi Taw).

According to the study of the objects by an ancient object assessment board, it has been found that the bronze lion scale is the work of Hant Hawthady Period while the 31 pieces of colourfull jewellery are the works of Pyu Period. So, owner U Myint Aung was rewarded K87300 on 20 March.

Dramatic late Mata winner keeps Blues in Champions League hunt after controversial Ivanovic opener

LONDON, 7 April—Juan Mata scored a stoppage-time winner to sink struggling Wigan and strengthen Chelsea’s hopes of a top-four finish.

Branislav Ivanovic was in an offside position when he put Chelsea ahead in controversial circumstances after a fast break by Raul Meireles.

Mohamed Diame appeared to have earned the visitor a priceless point when he netted from the edge of the area.

But Chelsea secured victory through Mata after fellow Spaniard Fernando Torres hit the post. It was tough on the Latics, who remain anchored in the relegation zone, but manager Roberto Martinez will be confident his side can still escape the drop if they can produce this level of performance in their remaining six games.

While Wigan proved they were no pushovers during a battling first-half performance, Chelsea appeared to be suffering a Champions League hangover following their quarter-final victory over Benfica.

They were sluggish before Maynor Figueroa's 38th-minute clearance of the line frustrated Didier Drogba on his return, one of seven changes to the side that played in midweek.

Michael Essien was booked for a cynical foul on Victor Moses before Drogba went close with a low shot from the edge of the area which flashed narrowly wide of the Wigan post.

Then in the dying moments of the first half, Alf Habibulawaid away Drogba’s goal-bound header from close range after the Ivory Coast striker had connected with Florent Malouda’s teasing cross.

Dams supplying irrigation water, drinking water, enhancing agricultural sector in Bago Region

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