Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal opened

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 April—
The opening ceremony of 1373 ME Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal was held in front of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this evening.

It was attended by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials, choral dancers from ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Command and hotels in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, artists, and guests.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt said in his address: Today’s ceremony was to open third Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival in Nay Pyi Taw in transition from 1373 ME to a new year.

Handed down by ancestors, it is the significant festival of the entire nation. Staff families of each ministry, families of hotels and companies and residents will participate in the festival of the administrative city.

Water is poured in Thingyan festival to cool down summer’s scorching heat and to wash off the dirt of the previous year. It is the festival where mistakes, misdeeds and retaliations are also wash off.

The traditional customs should be preserved in the festival, avoiding indecent dresses, dirty jokes, rudely pouring water and drinking.

It is the festival the entire people seek merits from paying respect to the older persons, releasing animals, and preserving Sabbath.

On first day of the new year, people of each ward and road auditioned Parrittas and share merits.

The Central Pandal will be opened in Nay Pyi Taw City Hall and four others in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zones. Choral dancers and songsters will entertain the capital’s revelers at entertainment pandals.

Moreover, Nay Pyi Taw Fountain Garden, National Herbal Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, Safari Garden, National Landmarks Garden will also be kept open.

Nay Chi and Phone Khant and choral dancers to the accompaniment of the Ministry of Culture entertained those present at the ceremony.

Opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal in progress in front of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this evening.—MNA

Revellers urged not to splash water on postmen in uniform

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 April—
Postmen of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs will be on duty to deliver letters and telegraphs on 15 April (Sunday) and new year holiday on 20 April (Friday) without off on those days.

The express mail service of the ministry will also be run on the new year holidays.

MPT has urged water festival goers not to throw water to the postmen in uniform during the water festival days.—MNA

What we call it Thingyan: Beyond the bottle

Pakokku Central Pandal on Myoma Road in Pakokku packed with merry-makers on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day.

Revellers throwers happily at NAINGGroup Pandal in Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon.

A decorated float of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival in Mandalay.
Private sector contribution

When compared with our neighbours, there is a big difference between our rice export volume and theirs despite the small difference in sown acreage. In fact, their cultivation methods and strains are much more advanced than us and that is the source of this big difference.

As we are still an agricultural country, we are trying for successful cultivation of paddy as well as other crops boosting crop output for domestic consumption and export. In the endeavour, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been taking coordinative measures to acquire necessary techniques, methods, strains and cooperation wherever possible including from international organizations and international community. The ministry is also seeking cooperation from countries enjoying higher agro technology. As the technique to grow Palathye hybrid paddy strains is the best for the time being, the ministry is educating farmers all across the country to grow the hybrid strain.

As for the developed countries, they are 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, too needs to introduce mechanized farming for agricultural sector development.

Farmers on their part must work hard accepting advice of experts to be successful in their agricultural business.

The State will be able to assist the agricultural sector only if it is economically strong. This is why the private sector contribution is also necessary. With the assistance of the State, the private sector should set up agricultural cartels for large-scale mechanized farming. These business organizations should also help farmers apply modern methods, fertilizers and high-yield strains. They should also disburse low-interest loans to farmers. In this way we all must find means that will help narrow the rice export gap between our country and her neighbours.

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—A ceremony to hand over two motor vehicles to Liaison Offices of Kayin National Union (KNU) took place at Zwekabin Hotel in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 10 April, attended by Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Khin Yi from Union level Peace-making group, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, the State Ministers and officials, Secretary-General of KNU Naw Sopora Sein, delegation led by Chief of General Staff General Saw Mutu Say Poe and members and negotiators from both sides.

On behalf of Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi handed over documents to related to two Grand Tiger motor vehicles donated by Ministry of Industry to be used at liaison offices in Hpa-an and Dawei through General Saw Mutu Say Poe.

After that, the Union Ministers, the State Chief Minister, members of State level peace-making group, and delegation led by Naw Sopora Sein and General Saw Mutu Say Poe from KNU peace-making group hold discussion on continuation of the ceasefire and opening of the liaison offices. State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin and member of KNU Central Committee Saw Thaw Thi Boe signed minutes and exchanged it.

The following day, Union level peace-making group of New Mon State Party peace-making group held on-going peace-making process at Mon State Government Office in Mawlamyine. It was attended by Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Khin Yi from Union level peace-making group, State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win, Lt-Col Zaw Naing Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htay Myint Aung from Union-level peace-making group, the State Advocate-General, Lt-Col Kyaw Myint from the North-East Command, the Secretary of State Government, U Shwe Thaung from Region Development Supervisory Office, member ledfy Joint General Secretary (1) Nai Aung Min of New Mon State Party peace-making group and delegates from both sides.

At the meeting, Union level peace-making group and New Mon State Party peace-making group discussed matters related to the ceasefire across the country, perpetuation of the ceasefire with New Mon State Party, regional development and social, education, health and economic affairs, the release of prisoners of New Mon State Party and other armed groups and continued holding of Union level peace talks. Union Minister U Aung Min of Union level peace-making group and joint General Secretary (1) Nai Aung Min of New Mon State Party peace-making group signed the meeting minutes and exchanged it.

MWAF emphasizes social welfare tasks in Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for free eye surgical operation in Chin State by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at Haka General Hospital on 5 April morning. President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Thein Thein Zin presented K 3.15 million to Medical Superintendent Dr Bha Maung. The president gave gifts to three eye specialists and surgical team members. Later, she donated K 500,000 to the fund of the General Hospital and cash assistance to the patients.

Patrons of the federation Daw Ni Ni Win and Daw Mya Theingi visited the summer women’s tailoring course at Aye Yeik Haka, the president and patrons presented K 1486000 and gifts to the aged.

On 6 April, they viewed traditional cotton ware industries and swim farm of local people and donated K 800,000 to Kyun-kyun Parahita Development School K 6.1 million to Parahita School, monasteries and nunneries.

On 7 April, they donated K 500,000 to Lakhu Youth Development Parahita School in Haka and K 250,000 to the fund of Tawya monastery. They donated K 750,000 to Nayzayt Youth Development Parahita Home in Falam. While in Falam, they donated K 350,000 to the nunnery.

On 9 April, they presented prizes to the winners in the culture course at Aye Yeik Mon-4 Home for the Girls’ Orphanage in Chameyi. Aungsi Ward of Kalay.

In Indaw Ward, they viewed successful production of Phyoe roasted lablab industry with the use of micro-credit loans. They presented K 3,000,000 to WAOs of three townships from Kalay District. —MNA
Spanish national kidnapped in Nigeria

**broken span**

*AFP* said on Wednesday.

The man was abducted from his house last week by some gunmen who took him to an unknown location,” police spokesman Ebere Amaraeze told AFP, adding that the kidnapping occurred on 4 April.

“We don’t want to reveal the details of our operation so as not to jeopardise efforts to free him from his captors,” Amaraeze declined to say if a ransom demand had been made. Earlier, Spain’s Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo said in Madrid that the man was believed to have been abducted and that his disappearance “has all the characteristics of a kidnapping for economic reasons.”

Spanish media reported that the 58-year-old doctor works for a clinic belonging to a foundation financially supported by Catholic institution Opus Dei in Nigeria. “The organization he works for has asked for total discretion,” the foreign ministry added as he arrived in parliament. “It is in the south of the country, not in the north, so there are no political implications of any type.” Spain’s embassy in Nigeria was working with the local authorities to resolve the case and the foreign ministry was in “permanent contact” with the man’s family, a ministry spokesman said. — Internet

**Spanish national kidnapped in Nigeria**

**US-Afghan talks face tough hurdle over troops**

WASHINGTON, 12 April — Washington and Kabul have halted negotiations towards signing a treaty on relations after 2014 — but it will not cover the crucial issue of the status of any US troops remaining in Afghanistan.

“Anything having to do with the continued presence of US forces and the roles that they will play will be negotiated separately after the strategic partnership agreement,” US embassy spokesman Gavin Sundwall told AFP. In Iraq, Washington pulled out all its troops, leaving no residual force, after failing to get Baghdad to grant its soldiers immunity from prosecution in local courts.

In Afghanistan, anger over the murderous rampage last month by a US soldier who allegedly killed 16 Afghan villagers in their homes at night before being flown out of the country, has complicated the negotiations ahead. The 130,000-strong US-led NATO force helping the Afghan government fight a decade-long Taliban insurgency is due to end combat operations and pull out by the end of 2014, but a residual US force is expected to remain. The issue of legal immunity for those troops “is definitely one of the issues, among many others, that will be discussed with the Americans”, a senior Afghan government official told AFP, without giving any details. He pointed out that last year a US airman—traditional grand assembly of Afghan chiefs — demanded that American troops should be liable to prosecution in local courts. But the issue has not loomed large — at least publicly — in the Afghan negotiations so far, with Kabul concentrating on getting control over the US-run Bagram prison and the withdrawal of special forces night raids against Taliban militants. President Hamid Karzai, re-elected both years ago, has also not pressed the issue, and officials on both sides have expressed hope that the strategic partnership agreement could be signed before the NATO summit in Chicago in May. — Internet

**Salford plane crash: ‘Aircraft had fuel supply problem’**

LONDON, 12 April — A plane which crashed into two houses in Greater Manchester, killing the pilot, had probably suffered a fuel supply problem, a report has revealed. Ian Dalglish, 59, was killed in the crash in Salford while another man, aged 19, suffered serious 60% burns. Their light aircraft plunged into two homes in Newlands Avenue, Peel Green, on 29 July 2011. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) said the Piper PA38 Tomahawk’s engine’s stalled on take off.

Father-of-two Mr Dalglish, from Alderley Edge, Cheshire, was an experienced pilot. The plane’s engine cut out shortly after leaving Manchester/Barton City Airport, at about 200ft (60m), said the AAIB report. It stated that the plane rolled to the left, with the extension roof of the first house most likely being struck by the aircraft’s right wing. The burning plane’s underside hit the wall of a neighbouring house, coming to rest in a driveway between the two homes. The AAIB report said: “The account of the passenger and the findings from the investigation suggesting a fuel supply problem is being the most likely cause of the engine stoppage.” It added: “Although other potential causes for the engine stoppage could not be eliminated from the investigation, the most likely cause, based on the available evidence, was that stiffness of the fuel selector valve and wear on the rod connecting it to the selector handle, may have resulted in the valve being in an intermediate position during the take-off.”

“This would have reduced the fuel flow to a level too low to sustain continuous engine operation.” — Internet

**Salford plane crash: ‘Aircraft had fuel supply problem’**

**Strong quake shakes Mexico, no major damage**

MEXICO CITY, 12 April — A strong earthquake hit western Mexico on Wednesday, shaking buildings as far away as the capital and sending people rushing out of offices onto the streets, though there were no reports of major damage. People wait outside after being evacuated from their buildings following an earthquake in Mexico City on 11 April, 2012. — Internet

The earthquake measured 7.1 on the Richter scale and was felt in Mexico City, Guadalajara, and other cities in the region. Several aftershocks were also reported. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The United States has no renewable energy target but they have decided to try and incentivize clean energy investments through a variety of tax incentives, tax credits, tax subsidies, loan guarantees, said the AAIB.— Internet

**Strong quake shakes Mexico, no major damage**

**US grabs lead over China in clean energy race**

WASHINGTON, 12 April — The United States has regained the lead in the clean energy race, investing $48 billion last year to surpass China, which held the world’s top spending spot since 2009, said a study on Wednesday.

The US surge in private investment was a 42 percent increase over 2010 and saw Washington maintain its lead worldwide in both venture capital and research and development cash, said the Pew Charitable Trusts annual report on clean energy.

However, the US boom was largely driven by existing tax incentives, highlighting “a persistent phenomenon in which the country fails to deploy into the marketplace the clean energy innovations it creates in the laboratory,” it said. China, which fell to second, invested $45.5 billion last year, a one percent increase over 2010, but maintained its global lead in wind energy investment and in solar manufacturing, said the report.

Experts say a key difference between the United States and China is in how they attract investment — China by having solid green policies that reassure investors and the United States by offering tax breaks for investment.

“The US has been able to fuel its growing very consistent and long-term energy policies through a variety of tax incentives, tax credits, tax subsidies, loan guarantees,” said the AAIB. — Internet

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**When a US aircraft crashed in Greater Manchester, killing the pilot, the report said, the plane was not on course for a fuel supply problem.** — Internet

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“The US has been able to fuel its growing very consistent and long-term energy policies through a variety of tax incentives, tax credits, tax subsidies, loan guarantees,” said Phyllis Cuttino, director of Pew’s Clean Energy Programme. “The United States has no renewable energy target but they have decided to try and incentivize clean energy investments through a variety of tax incentives, tax credits, tax subsidies, loan guarantees, said the AAIB.— Internet

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Wal-Mart previews 'Disc to Digital' movie service

ROSEMONT, 12 April — Wal-Mart Stores Inc previewed its “Disc to Digital” service for converting DVDs into an online library on Wednesday. Based on my experience, I give it a six out of 10.

That’s the number of discs I was able to convert from a completely unscientific sampling of my personal DVD library. The new service allows movie fans to walk to any Walmart, where they can present their old DVDs and get permanent access to an online version of each movie that can be streamed from a home computer or a mobile device. The DVDs are stamped with a special ink to prevent further conversion. The DVDs, however, can still be played. Each DVD conversion costs as little as $2.

Three of my four failed conversions were no surprise — two were obscure documentaries, and one was a film from The Walt Disney Co, which is not participating in the service. One was a bit puzzling: “Water for Elephants,” a fairly successful romance released last year by 20th Century Fox, one of the studios that is partnering with Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart’s category director for movies, Louis Greth, said the retailer hasn’t yet cleared the rights for all the titles from participating studios. That will result in some titles not being available. Some actors and directors and have not agreed to sign over digital rights to movies they took part in. In the case of director George Lucas, that includes all six “Star Wars” movies.

Apple develops tool to ‘detect and remove’ Flashback Trojan

WASHINGTON, 12 April — Apple has said it is developing a tool to “detect and remove” a Trojan that is said to have infected more than half a million Mac computers. Its aim is to work with internet service providers (ISPs) to disrupt the command network being used by hackers to exploit the malware. Trojans are infections that can expose computers to control by hackers. It is Apple’s first statement on the threat. It issued patches to prevent the malware’s installation last week.

The two security updates were released eight weeks after Java’s developer Oracle issued a fix for other computer systems. In a message posted on Apple’s website’s support section, the company said it had fixed a “Java security flaw for systems running OS X v10.7 and Mac OS X v10.6.” It suggested users of Macs running earlier versions of system software should disable Java in their web browser preferences. In addition, Apple said it was working with ISPs to shut down networks of servers hosted by the malware authors, which the code — known as Flashback — is said “to perform many of its critical functions.”

Russian anti-virus firm Dr Web, which has tracked the scale of the botnet, said it believed around 650,000 machines had now been infected.

Environmental Age says warns of flash flood risk in drought

London, 12 April — Drought conditions affecting much of England could increase the risk of flash flooding in heavy rain, the Environment Agency has warned. Hosepipe bans were introduced in parts of southern and eastern England on 5 April after one of the driest two-year periods on record. But the agency said “dry, compacted soils” absorbed water less easily and future storms could cause flash floods. It is encouraging people to use its new Facebook FloodAlerts application.

In a blog post, Nokia said the phone had enjoyed a “positive response” since its release, but that problems still emerged. “After this flagship device began selling, we identified a software issue,” the company wrote. “In short, a management issue” would be issued on 16 April. In the meantime, affected customers are being offered $100 ($63) in call credits. Analysts say the setback could hit Nokia’s hopes of regaining market share from rivals Apple and Google. Nokia is still the world’s largest mobile manufacturer, but is losing out significantly in the smartphone market. The Lumia 900, which was released in the US on Sunday, runs Microsoft’s latest Windows Phone software. The phone is expected to launch in the UK by the end of the month.

Los Angeles, 12 April — The massive earthquake off Indonesia surprised scientists: Usually this type of jolt isn’t this powerful. The biggest earthquakes tend to occur in subduction zones where one plate of the Earth’s crust dives under another. This grind produced the 2004 magnitude-9.1 Indian Ocean disaster and the magnitude-9 Japan quake last year. Wednesday’s magnitude-8.6 occurred along a strike-slip fault line similar to California’s San Andreas Fault. Scientists say it’s rarer for strike-slip quakes, in which blocks of rocks slide horizontally past each other, to be this large.

“We’re clearly not a bad quake,” said seismologist Susan Hough of the US Geological Survey in Pasadena, Calif. Although the world’s second most seismic region, Indonesia is located on the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” an arc of volcanoes and faults lining encircling the Pacific Basin. Pressure builds up on the rocks over time and is eventually released in an earthquake. Wednesday’s quake was followed by a magnitude-8.2 aftershock. Both were strike-slip quakes. “A week ago, we wouldn’t have thought we could have a strike-slip earthquake of this size. This is very, very large,” said Kevin Furlong, a professor of geosciences at Penn State University.

So large, in fact, that the main shock went into the history books. Record-keeping by the USGS National Earthquake Information Centre ranks Wednesday’s shaker as the 11th largest since 1900. It’s probably the largest strike-slip event though there’s debate about whether a similar-sized Tibet quake in 1950 was the same kind.
Seaweed linked to post-menopause cancer risk

Tokyo, 12 April — A Japanese study on Wednesday said regular seaweed consumption among post-menopausal women heightened their risk of developing thyroid cancer, linking it to iodine in the macrobiotic food. A 14-year national survey of nearly 53,000 Japanese women, aged between 40 and 69, found that the group reported 134 thyroid cancer cases, including 113 cases of papillary carcinoma, a common type of the illness.

Those who ate seaweed daily were 1.7 times more likely to develop cancer than those who ate it no more than twice a week, the study said. The risk more than doubled among post-menopausal women who were about 1.8 times more likely to develop the cancer than those who limited their consumption of seaweed, a popular food in Japan, the study said. “Seaweed consumption was clearly associated with an increased risk of papillary carcinoma,” said the study led by the National Cancer Centre and National Institute for Environmental Studies.

shift workers ‘risking’ diabetes and obesity

London, 12 April — Shift workers getting too little sleep at the wrong time of day may be increasing their risk of diabetes and obesity, according to researchers. The team is calling for more measures to reverse the impact of shift working, following the results of its study. Researchers controlled the lives of 21 people, including meal and bedtime. The results, published in Science Translational Medicine, showed changes to normal sleep meant the body struggled to control sugar levels. Some participants even developed early symptoms of diabetes within weeks. Shift work has been associated with a host of health problems. Doctors at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, in the US, were trying to study its effects in a controlled environment.

The 21 health trial participants started with 10 hours sleep at night. This was followed by three weeks of disruption to their sleep and body clocks. The length of the day was extended to 28 hours, creating an effect similar to a full-time flyer constantly getting jet lag. Participants were allowed only 6.5 hours’ sleep in the new 28-hour day, equivalent to 5.6 hours in a normal day. They also lived in dim light to prevent normal light resetting the body clock. During this part of the study, sugar levels in the blood were “significantly increased” immediately after a meal and during “fasting” parts of the day.

BMW sees record sales thanks to China demand

Berlin, 12 April — German luxury carmaker BMW has posted record quarterly sales for the first three months of the year, a period in which it sold more cars in China than in the US for the first time. Overall sales hit 425,528 vehicles, a rise of 11.2% on a year earlier, with the BMW, Rolls-Royce and Mini brands all reporting record sales. The company sold 80,014 cars in China, 37% more than a year ago. BMW said it expected record sales to continue throughout the second quarter, “The BMW Group achieved an all-time high in sales last month and the best quarter in its history,” said sales boss Ian Robertson. The carmaker is due to publish its first quarter financial results on 3 May. In 2011, BMW profits jumped by 51% to 4.96 euros ($6.4b; GB£)on Tuesday, rival Audi, which is owned by Volkswagen, said it had sold 346,100 cars in the first quarter, an increase of 10.8% on a year earlier.

Doubts over insect-bite treatment

London, 12 April — People should consider using a cold, wet cloth to treat insect bites instead of turning to over-the-counter remedies, experts say. An investigation has concluded that there is little evidence that creams, painkillers and anti-inflammatories often used for bites actually work.

In any case, said Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin researchers, the reactions got better by themselves in most cases. Midges, mosquitoes, flies, fleas and bed-bugs account for most bites. A variety of remedies are sold over the counter in pharmacies to relieve the itching, pain and swelling.

Researchers from the journal reviewed a host of data and evidence published on insect-bite treatments. It concluded in many cases treatments for insect bites had not actually been tested for such purposes. It said medical help should clearly be sought if serious symptoms, such as infections or anaphylactic shock, developed.

But it said for simple bites a flannel or cloth soaked in cold water often worked best — despite advice from official bodies, such as NHS Choices, suggesting treatments should be used. David Phizackerley, the deputy editor of the journal, said: “People are using these treatments so they should know there is no evidence they work. [Most] bites will get better on their own.”

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Choral dancers perform dances at Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal opening ceremony on 12 April. —TIN SOE

Revellers and throwers at NAIHG Group Pandal in Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day. —TIN SOE

Pandal of General Administration Department of Yangon West District packed with merry-makers. —MYANMA ALIN

Pandals on ring road of Kandawgyi Lake in Yangon Region teeming with revellers on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day. —TIN SOE

Opening ceremony of Toungoo Thingyan Festival in progress. —MYANMA ALIN

Photos capturing images of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Akyo Day

A decorated float of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival in Mandalay. —MNA

Kyeegon Station Pandal packed with revellers in Kalay on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day. (Min Than Wai-KALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Pakokku Central Pandal on Myoma Road in Pakokku packed with merry-makers on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day. —MYANMA ALIN

Decorated floats at Yangon Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal on Kandawgyi Ringroad. —MNA

Decorated floats at Yangon Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal on Kandawgyi Ringroad. —MNA
What we call it Thingyan: Beyond the bottle

by Nathan

New Year Water Festival, better known as Thingyan Festival, kicks off today. It derives from Pali word, “Sakran”, which means the transit of the sun from Pisces to Aries. It is the most significant event of festive Myanmar. The dates of celebration are calculated by lunar calendar. Other Theravada Buddhist countries in Southeast Asia—Laos, Cambodia and Thailand—have their own versions of Thingyan despite common celebration style.

However it is called Thingyan or Songkran or something, throwing water has the only meaning. It conveys the message that dirt of the preceding year is washed off by Thingyan water. Hit the road under scorching summer in blazing hot mid summer, clean and cold Thingyan water refreshes the world.

There is also a myth about Thingyan that Sakra, King of Celestial Abode, descends to the earth in festival period and closely monitors how the people are behaving. The later half of 5000 Susan years is said to be the Sakra’s Susan, meaning the King of Devas defends the religion founded by the Lord Buddha. Since a couple of months before the festival, Thingyan melodies have been occupying the air and the soul of Myanmar people. Padauk is the essential ingredient in Thingyan songs. The yellow Padauk flower, Angyana, comes out around the festival period only once a year, making it the crowning icon of faith and loyalty.

Another significant feature of Thingyan is catulisda, free snacks offered to anyone from all directions, the east, the west, the south and the north. Monte-ye-paw, floating rice ball with the nucleus of jaggery sweet, is the most famous and loved snack catulisda pandal offers. Chili is the alternative to jaggery sweet in some rice balls, used to jolly the unlucky eater into unkind spiciness.

The whole nation thrills to the festival which is also the garedent holiday. Each people will have their own ways to spend the 10-night holiday. Some move into the shade of Dhamma, observing Sabbath and regaining at meditation centres. Some opt to take a vacation. The majority choose to mingle with the crowd, playing water.

As all other festivals, Thingyan has adverse consequences. Traffic accidents are on the increase during in festival. According to police source, 69 revellers injured in 32 accidents during the last year’s celebration in Yangon alone. Wet and slippery roads and especially drink-driving are to blame for road accidents. Another sad thing is that most victims killed in those accidents are the young people on whom the country’s future depends. Drivers should not hold the wheel with excessive alcohol especially in the festival when most merry-makers are drunk. Drunken brawlcs are also common among young revellers during the festival.

The joy for a moment should not lead to the tragedy. And drinking never pays. There are still many other ways to enjoy Thingyan without booze.

Kawlin plans to organize Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival on grander scale

Kawlin, 12 April—A coordination meeting on organizing the Kawlin Township Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival was held at Zartiman Hall of Township Administration Department on 9 April.

At the meeting, Township Administrator U Myo Naung instructed officials to hold the festival on a grand scale like that of previous year and manage dancing and entertainment programmes, security and water supply tasks. Daw Kyaw Yin Win of Township Development Affairs Committee reported on supply of water, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Hla Myint, Deputy Commanding Officer U Kyaw Tint of Township Auxiliary Fire Battalion and ward administrators on security measures and holding of the festival.

Station Superintendent (UpperClass) U Tin Shein of Myanma Railways reported on arrangements for entertainments. Deputy Head of department U Kyaw Htoo submitted reports on plan to pay respects to the aged of above 85 years old on the New Year Day. Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival will be held in Kawlin on a grand scale.—Myanma Alin

Thuta Yadana Library opened in Thongwa Township

Yangon, 12 April—The opening ceremony of the new Thuta Yadana Library was held in Patokkyi Village of Bagantaung Village-tract in Thongwa Township of Yangon South District on 9 April morning.

Thongwa Township Administrator U Kyaw Thaung, Assistant Administrator of Bagantaung Village-tract U Kyaw Myint and Library Committee Chairperson U Aung Nyin formally opened the building of library.

After that, the Township Administration donated 100 books, Township IPRD 100 books, the chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Ma Nyo 100 books, wellwisher U Naing Oo-Daw San San Win and family land plot for the library, U Zaw Win-Daw Ohn Hay and family K 70,000 for library books, U Kyaw Mar Sein and family one clock, four feet fluorescent lamp and books. Officials accepted the cash and kind donation.

The building of the library was constructed at a cost of K 1,100,000 by the state and K 500,000 by the local people. The facility is 24 feet long, 14 feet wide and 12 feet high one story building.

Myanma Alin

Taxation over salary clarified

Yangon, 12 April—Yangon Region Internal Revenue Department organized a talk on taxation over salary at the hall of State Lottery Department of Internal Revenue Department, here, on 9 April. Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San Nwe delivered an address at the ceremony.

DISTRIBUTION NEWS

Natural hutching of golden Hamilton’s Carp demonstrated

Bhamo, 12 April—The natural hutching of golden Hamilton’s carp was demonstrated to fish breeders in Bhamo Township so as to develop the rural areas. On 28 March, in-charge of the Bhamo fish farming camp Daw Thin Hlaing and staff demonstrated natural hutching of fish.

Head of District Fisheries Department Daw Nyunt May and Head of Township Cooperative Department Daw Ohn Myint distributed 10,500 fingerlings of golden Hamilton’s Carp to 15 small fish ponds of Shweppittha Cooperative Society through Shweppitha administrator, and fish ponds of Aung, Sanda, Aung Hua Pan, Khaing Mye Aung and Pan Cherry cooperative societies.

Fisheries Department

Strong winds, heavy rains hit Sagaing

Sagaing, 12 April—The strong winds hit Sagaing Region in addition to heavy rains at 8.15 pm on 7 April. Due to blow of strong winds, a lamp post broke and a Banyan tree fell down on the road.

Under the supervision of the Township Administrator, the ward administrators, workers, ward administrator and party members of fire brigade cleared debris from the road as much as possible and carried out supply of electricity as usual to the local people.—Kyemon
Over 150 Maha Thingyan...
(from page 16)
Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein launched the fountain. Choral dance troupes performed dances and songs. A total of 11 pandals were opened in the district.
Region Planning and Economy Minister U Than Myint extended greetings at opening ceremony of Yangon North District Pandal which was formally opened by Region Ministers Daw San San Nwe, USoe Min and U Than Myint and District Administrator U Nay Lin. A total of 15 pandals were opened in the district.
Region Planning and Economy Minister U Than Myint extended greetings at opening ceremony of Yangon North District Pandal which was formally opened by Region Ministers Daw San San Nwe, USoe Min and U Than Myint and District Administrator U Nay Lin. A total of 15 pandals were opened in the district.

Yangon Region Chief Minister attends Yangon Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal opening ceremony

YANGON, 12 April—
The opening ceremony of Yangon Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal was held at the pandal this morning. The ceremony was attended by Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Chief/Justice of Region High Court U Win Swe, the Region Hluttaw deputy speaker, region ministers, the region advocate-general, the region auditor-general, their wives, diplomats in Yangon and their families, departmental officials, choral dance troupes and guests.

Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Chief/Justice of Region High Court U Win Swe, the Region Hluttaw deputy speaker, region ministers, the region advocate-general, the region auditor-general, their wives, diplomats in Yangon and their families, departmental officials, choral dance troupes and guests.

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe attends opening ceremony of Yangon Mayor’s Thingyan Pandal.—MNA

Central Pandal of Yangon South District seen with opening ceremony for Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME of Yangon South District.

Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME observed in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day

Yein Troupes perform their dance at Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal’s opening ceremony.

Thingyan lovers play with water at Sky Net and Shwe FM happily.—MNA

Golden Triangle Family Thingyan Pandal joyfully participates in Water Festival.
Kachin State Chief Minister tees off golf tourney, inspects water throwing pandals in Myitkyina

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — A golf tournament was held to mark Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival for 1374 ME at Northern Star Golf Club in Myitkyina in Kachin State yesterday.

Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai teed off to open the tournament. Afterwards, the Chief Minister visited water throwing pandals of ministries and companies.

At 7 pm, the Chief Minister attended a presentation ceremony for the tournament and dinner hosted to mark the tournament at the City Hall in Myitkyina.— MNA

Water throwing pandals in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone opened

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Water throwing pandals at Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone were opened today to mark the Maha Thingyan festival.

The water throwing pandals of the Golden Guest Hotel and Shwe Thanlwin Company outside the Golden Guest Hotel was opened this morning by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and patron of Shwe Thanlwin Company Agga Maha Thiri Thdhhamma Theingi Daw Ni. Artists and dance troupes entertained the visitors with song and traditional dances.

Shwe Thanlwin Company is donating charity food and snacks to visitors during the festival.

Similarly, the water throwing pandal of Max Myanmar Group of Companies outside Oasis Hotel was opened by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and Chairman of Theim Group Co Ltd U Thein Aung.

The water throwing pandal of Nay Pyi Taw FC outside Oasis Hotel was opened by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and CEO of Max Myanmar Group of Companies Ei Kyaw Oo.

Artists and dancers performed traditional dances at the opening ceremonies of the pandals.

Artists and vocalists including Yau Aung, Nay Aung, Ye Aung, Kyaw Ye Aung, Zin Waing, Min Maw, Kun, Pho Thaik Kyar, Hat Kat, Ringo, Bo Phyu, Naw Naw, Thar Soc, Chan Chun, Jenny, Rebacca Win, Nilar Aung, May Thu and Tuter and traditional dancers will entertain the visitors with songs and dances during the festival.

Two categories for English set for National Literary Awards

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — National Literary Award scrutinizing committee has announced that it has set two categories for the National Literary Award for books in English as fiction and non-fiction genres as from 2011.

The literary award for English genre was added to the literary awards for books in Myanmar last year after it was suggested at the first meeting of the National literary award scrutinizing committee which has been organized for 2010 and 2011.

The committee selected the book whether it was fiction or non-fiction written in English by a Myanmar citizen last year.

The committee has increased the categories into two: fiction and non-fiction.

This year with the aim of encouraging English language learning in Myanmar, promoting Myanmar history, culture and arts and assisting the Myanmar literary world and writers.

Similarly, one award for book in English would be included in the Sarpay Beckman manuscript awards for 2011.— MNA

Union A&I Minister inspects plantations at Shwedaung agricultural research farm

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing yesterday afternoon viewed polination at 100-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy seed production farm of Shwedaung Agricultural Research Farm in Wundwin Township.

Indian agriculturist Mr Mohamad CD Siddiqui and Myanmar agriculturist U Naing Kyi Win reported on success in paddy seed production farm.

Ofﬁcials also reported on polination at 100-acre Surya Kiran hybrid sunflower strain plantation. The Union Minister also viewed thriving of 100-acre Ngwechi long staple cotton farm and 100-acre Myanmar Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation.

In meeting with ofﬁcials, the Union Minister stressed the need to produce quality seeds that grants cent per cent sprouting of plants for the farmers. Scholars are to strive for production of quality seeds with cost effectiveness for the farmers. Only when quality seeds are to be used, will crops of Myanmar have stable market in the world. Studying modern agriculture technology, experiences from scholars are to be compiled as research paper.

The Union Minister presented cash assistance as New Year gift and footstool to the scholars and workers of the farms.— MNA

Shwelinban Industrial Zone fire put out 50 minutes later

Authorities call on people to speed up fire preventive measures

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Fire which broke out at YC Cork factory in Shwelinban Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon Region at 2.50 pm today was put out 50 minutes later.

Making holes at cork containers with electricity started the fire. Thirty fire engines and ﬁve administration vehicles rushed to the scene and extinguished the ﬁre in minutes. A Mark II car, one RC factory building with corrugated-iron sheet roof, machines in the factory and raw materials were lost in the ﬁre.

A series of ﬁre outbreaks around the country in every year not only led to losses for victims but undermined urban and rural development and national development.

As now is hot season which is more likely to start a ﬁre, TV, radio, dailies and journals are constantly warning the people to take ﬁre preventive measures. Fire bridges in towns and villages are giving educative talks, demonstrating ﬁre drills and conducting surprise checks whether the ﬁre is used systematically.

The authorities concerned are trying to raise public awareness of the risks of negligence ﬁre—ambers, high temperature in electronic equipment and wires, and cigarette which is not completely extinguished.—MNA

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Nurturing of Palethwe hybrid paddy demonstrated in Mawlamyineygun

Mawlamyineygun, 12 April—Farmers of Mawlamyineygun Township observed cultivation pattern of thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation of farmer U Aye Naing in Gyongonekyya Village in Tchaung Village-tract of the township on 7 April morning.

The observation was held at the farmer’s educational plot of Township Agriculture Department in Gyongonekyya Village. The observation was supervised by Head of Township Agriculture Department U Kyaw Htay and staff.

Farmers of 27 villages from the township viewed thriving of best quality of ears of paddy at Palethwe paddy plantation.

The head of Township Agriculture Department, Deputy Heads of Department Daw Thein Win and Daw Moh Moh Than, Assistant Head of Department U Myint Soe explained nurturing of Palethwe hybrid paddy plants, method of cultivation and 14-point good agriculture patterns in detail.—Myanma Alin

MLF invites books, cash donations

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to promoting 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 Botataung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-396756.

Title recipient Sayadaws honoured in Hsipaw

Hsipaw, 12 April—A ceremony to honour members of the Sangha offered religious titles by the State was held at Namlan Myole Monastery in Hsipaw Township on 5 April.

At the ceremony, the community, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people paid homage to Dhammakatikha Bahujana title recipient Bawkyo Phayagyii Monastery Sayadan and Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title recipient Namlan Myole Monastery Bhaddanta Nanobasa.—Myanma Alin

Rural Library opened in Machanbaw Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 April—A ceremony to open new building of Sheinhi Library was held in Deinchet Village in Ingadeincheit Village-tract in Machanbaw Township of Patan District in Kachin State on 29 March morning.

At the ceremony, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Nan Zawchon Hsan and Village administrator U Nan Sho Hein cut the ribbon to open the building.

At first, the village administrator made a speech. The head of Township Information and Public Relations Department explained durability of the library.

After that, the chairman of the Library Committee accepted the documentary video on Ayaykyonin Kyemon Shide donate by Myanmar Libraries Foundation and 200 books and publications by Township Information and Public Relations Department.—Township IRPD

Fire breaks out at Haymawun Market in South Okkalapa Township

Yangon, 12 April—Fire broke out at Haymawun Market on Myitta Road of Ward 10 in South Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region on 10 April.

The outbreak of fire started at 1.20 am. It was died out at 2.38 am and put out at 2.55 am.

In the incident, the fire destroyed over 1200 shops of three complexes of Haymawun Market.

Fire brigade members put out the fire with the use of 43 fire engines, six supporting vehicles, five water tankers and nine management vehicles, totalling 63.

The fire started from mosquito coil of the night guard between No. 2 and No. 3 complexes of the market.—Myanma Alin

MES Vice-Chairman leaves for Japan

Yangon, 12 April—A team comprising CEC members U Hla Khang, U Tin Maung Win, U Po Aye and Work Committee member U Aung Naing Thu led by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society U Lin left here by air for Japan on 9 April evening to attend the Asian Welding Federation Meeting and the International Welding Technological Show to be held in Osaka of Japan from 11 to 13 April.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Joint General Secretary U Ohn Myint of Myanmar Engineering Society.

On completion of the meeting, they will visit JFE workshops to meet Myanmar trainees who are learning welding courses of JFE Engineering Co Ltd of Japan.—MES

Tatkon Township holds coord meeting on planning and implementing committee

Tatkon, 12 April—The Planning and Implementing Committee of Tatkon Township held the coordination meeting No. 1/2012 at the hall of Township General Administration Department at 2 pm on 6 April.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area General Administration Department U Maung Maung and Township Administrator U Aye Lu delivered addresses.

Head of Township Planning Department U Win Naing reported on progress of drawing the plans.

Member of the committee township level departmental officials, townswelders, social and economic organization members and officials participated in the discussions.—Kyemon

Call centre kept open in Maha Thingyan Festival period

Yangon, 12 April—The call centre will be kept open to give 24-hour services to replying to the any questions during the period of Maha Thingyan Festival.

“Twenty-four-hour services will be provided to the users during the period of Maha Thingyan Festival. Call rate will be set K 30 per minute as original price of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications. Services will cover the existing five sectors,” explained an official of the call centre.

As information desk of the call centre will be opened during the Thingyan holidays, the people are interested in its services.

Anyone can give services for businesses on incoming and outgoing telephone calls of companies, offers of commodities and other business services.

Anyone may dial 1876 for communication and other information, and general matters urgently during the period of Maha Thingyan Festival.

EPSON DONATED: Wellwisher U Aung Than Nynn-Daw Khin Thit Aung donate K 100,000 to the medical fund of Yedashe Home for the Aged through Head of the Home U Maung Maung on 4 April.

MYANNA ALIN

CASH DONATED: Cash donation was held for Jivitadana Clinic at Home for the Aged in Yedashe through Chairman of the Home Administrative Board U Myint Moe.—Myanma Alin

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

The second best time is now.
UK can extradite five terror suspects to US
London, 12 April — Europe’s human rights court ruled Tuesday that Britain can send a radical Muslim cleric and four other suspects to the United States to face terror charges in a case that has been closely watched as an indicator of whether tough US prisons could influence extradition policy. The court said Britain would not violate EU human rights rules by extraditing the suspects, who could face life sentences in inhuman or degrading conditions and jail terms that would expose them to “torture or ill-treatment” and “torture or ill-treatment” and “torture or ill-treatment.”

Heart test could predict future attacks in elderly
New York, 12 April — A test to measure the heart’s electrical activity could help predict future heart attacks in otherwise healthy adults over 70, said a US study on Tuesday. Researchers followed 1,922 healthy adults aged 70-79 for a period of eight years, according to the study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The subjects started the study by getting an electrocardiogram, often called an EKG or ECG, which measures the heart’s electrical activity. People who showed abnormalities in their EKGs saw a higher risk of heart disease over the course of the study than people whose EKGs were normal, even after researchers adjusted for risk factors like diabetes and high cholesterol. Those with minor abnormalities show up on their first test had a 35 percent higher risk of heart attack, while those with major abnormalities had a 51 percent increased risk, said the findings. “This research is a step towards better health outcomes for older adults,” said the study’s lead researcher, John G. Cleland, who is an associate professor of medicine at Northwestern University Medical School.

Heart test could predict future attacks in elderly
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Boy, 5, brings 50 packets of heroin to school for show and tell
Bridgeport, 12 April — Police say a five-year-old Connecticut boy brought 50 packets of heroin to school for show and tell, and his stepfather arrested has been arrested. Police say the boy wore Roman’s jacket to school on Monday. When he came home Monday to retrieve the drugs and found police waiting for him.

Medical emergency delays Titanic memorial cruise
London, 12 April — A cruise ship reactivating the route of the Titanic had to interrupt its journey on Tuesday because of a medical emergency on board, organizers said. The Titanic Memorial Cruise—on its way to the North Atlantic site where the Titanic hit an iceberg and sank 100 years ago—had to turn back briefly to the Irish coast so that a sick passenger could be airlifted to a hospital.

People watch police investigate the scene where three people were shot and killed at an in-home day care in Brooklyn Park, Minn, on 9 April, 2012. No arrests were immediately made.
**Claims Day Notice**

**MV DAN JIANG VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV DAN JIANG VOY NO ( )** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.T where it will be at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for:** MS Interasia Lines  
**Phone No:** 256908/37836/376797

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**Thailand’s Phuket Airport reopens after Tsunami threat**

Bangkok, 12 April — Services at Phuket Airport resumed Thursday after being shut down during a Tsunami warning in six coastal provinces sparked by a 8.6-magnitude earthquake off Indonesia, an official said.

The airport was reopened Wednesday night soon after a tsunami watch was lifted by the National Disaster Warning Centre, said Bangsarae Shingarayon, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The centre on Wednesday afternoon issued a Tsunami warning to the six provinces along the Andaman Sea -- Krabi, Phuket, Phang Nga, Ranong, Satun and Trang; however, it later revoked the warning at about 8 pm local time when it was clear the earthquake off Indonesia did not generate disastrous Tsunami.

Phuket International Airport was closed for several hours during the disaster scare, with more than 15 flights delayed. —Xinhua

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**US SEC sues AutoChina for alleged stock manipulation**

Washington, 12 April — The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has sued AutoChina International and 11 investors over alleged stock manipulation.

They have been accused of unlawfully buying and selling shares in a bid to artificially inflate trading figures so the company could gain “favorable loan terms”. AutoChina says it is the country’s biggest commercial vehicle sales and leasing firm.

The company has denied the charges. It said that the SEC’s allegations were “without merit”. The company intends to defend against the claims vigorously and believes that all of the evidence it is aware of contradicts the SEC’s allegations,” the firm said in a statement.

In its complaint, the SEC has alleged that the defendants and others deposited $60m (£38m) into US-based brokerage accounts starting from October 2010. It said the average daily trading volume of the company’s shares jumped to more than 139,000 shares between 1 November 2010 and 31 January 2011, compared with just 18,000 in the three months prior to the brokerage accounts being opened.

The SEC has alleged that several of those accused were related to the company’s chairman and that these accounts were only used to trade AutoChina shares. —Xinhua

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**India Maoists release Italian hostage Paolo Bosusco**

New Delhi, 12 April — Italian hostage Paolo Bosusco has been freed by India’s Maoist rebels after nearly a month in captivity.

Mr Bosusco, 54, was abducted on 14 March, along with fellow Italian Claudio Colangelo, 61, while trekking in a tribal area of Orissa state. Mr Colangelo was released on 25 March.

The exact terms of the release are not known but on Tuesday a court freed the wife of Maoist leader Babasahab Pungi. She was under several jailed rebels whose release the Maoists had demanded. State legislator Jhina Hikaka, who was seized on 23 March by another group of Maoists, remains in custody.

After his release, Mr Bosusco told a local television channel in the state capital, Bhubaneswar, that he had been treated well by the rebels. “I’m in good health.”

There’s nothing to worry about. I love Orissa and its people,” he said. Mr Bosusco, who has lived in the state for over a dozen years, said he had visited the area where he was held many times in the past. “But going to there as a tourist is different from going there as a hostage,” he said. Earlier, the rebels handed over Mr Bosusco to Dandapani Mohanty, one of the mediators, who brought him to Bhubaneswar.

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**Car mounts pavement in Kyoto, injuring 12**

Oka, 12 April — A car mounted a pavement in central Kyoto in western Japan Thursday, injuring 12 people, including 6 in critical condition, local press reported. The accident happened at around 1 pm local time when a driver drove the car on the sidewalk and hit pedestrians nearby in Ginza, one of the historical district of Kyoto City. The cause of the accident is still unknown. —Xinhua

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**First int’l digital photo and sign show opens in Vietnam**

Hanoi, 12 April — The International Digital Photo & Sign Show 2012, the first of this kind held in Vietnam, opened in southern Ho Chi Minh City on Thursday, attracting many domestic and world leading companies in the field from the United States, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia.

Organized by the Exporum Company and Eifec Com Ltd, the exhibition had more than 100 booths displaying the newest products of various brands, including Tamron, Benro, MeFoto, Pentax, Ricoh, Nikon, Olympus, Panasonic, Fuji and Samsung, according to the Vietnam News Agency.

Products of new technologies were also on display, such as LED screen, LED electronic boards, Lumi Letter made by Daikan (Japan) Group, Star Medi Group and Vinasom.

The show was also seen as a playing ground for those interested in digital camera and sign board advertisement, with various sideline events held during the three-day show, including a market for camera and equipment, seminar on camera and sign board advertisement, a photo exhibition of the city women photographers’ club, and a photo contest titled “Digital photos accompany you” and “Brightening Vietnamese beauty”.

The show will be open through 14 April. —Xinhua

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Archaeologists working in Jerusalem claim that a discovery they made inside a burial tomb, dating back to the time of Jesus Christ, could shed new light on the origins of Christianity. Biblical historian James Tabor, professor and chair of religious studies at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, is working with the team, led by controversial filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici.

Using a camera mounted on a robotic arm, the team found a 2,000-year-old engraving, which they claim depicts Jesus’ resurrection, on an ossuary—a limestone burial box that contains human bones. A century-old engraving.Their exploration of ancient life in the holy land is told in a new documentary for the Discovery Channel called “The Resurrection Tomb Mystery”, which premieres on 12 April at 10 pm ET/PT.

“It’s almost like a moonscape, feeling of something eerie, something kind of silent, a reverent feeling really,” Tabor said.

“Because these people died 2,000 years ago and now we are investigating their last moments, how they bury their dead, what they left behind, that was there and then the excitement of, ‘Will there be some something we’ll find or will we find just another Jewish tomb’? But the team thinks they found something much more than that. Tabor believes the engravings found on the ossuary depicts the Biblical story of Jonah, who was swallowed by a whale in the Book of Jonah.

The robot, developed at NYU by a research team coordinated by Italian Maurizio Porfiri, “was tested while swimming together with real fish in a water tunnel at different flow velocities,” Mansuaid said. Studying the flow structure, the group of researchers found out that even before locomotion was a determinant of fish preference, being fish more attracted towards the robot when the water was beating rather than when it was stastically immersed in the water. “The robotic fish left a vortex that helped the others save energy, similar to cyclists when they take advantage of wind stream behind vehicles,” Marras said.

“The Resurrection Tomb Mystery” is scheduled for a worldwide launch on 12 April at 10 pm ET/PT. ""It's almost like a moonscape, feeling of something eerie, something kind of silent, a reverent feeling really,"" Tabor said.

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MLS All-Stars to take on Chelsea in July

LONDON, 12 April — English Premier League club Chelsea will take on Major League Soccer’s All-Stars in the US league’s annual exhibition on 25 July, MLS announced on Wednesday. The match comes six years after a select side of MLS stars shocked Chelsea 1-0 in the 2006 All-Star game at Chicago. This time around, the match will be held at PPL Park, home of the Philadelphia Union. It will be the second stop on Chelsea’s US visit, following the announcement last month that they will play the Sounders in Seattle on 18 July. The MLS All-Stars will be coached by Peter Nowak, current coach of the Union. Nowak was at the helm when Dynamo De Rosario’s goal gave MLS the victory over Chelsea in 2006. Chelsea chief executive Ron Gourlay said the English club were excited to have a chance at a re-match. Chelsea have played in Philadelphia before, taking on AC Milan there in 2004. — Internet

Wigan stun United to give City hope

LONDON, 12 April — Struggling Wigan breathed life into the Premier League title race with a stunning 1-0 upset of Manchester United on Wednesday as Manchester City romped to a 4-0 win over West Bromwich Albion.

Just days after United looked to have assured themselves of a 20th league crown by opening up an eight-point lead over City, Shaun Maloney’s 50th-minute winner for Wigan suggested the title race may yet have more twists in store.

City’s emphatic win over West Brom at Eastlands reduced United’s lead at the top to five points with five games remaining, meaning Sir Alex Ferguson’s side have little margin for error in their remaining fixtures.

United, who must travel to City on 30 April — looked sluggish throughout as Wigan claimed a precious three points that lift MLS the victory over the relegation zone at the expense of Bolton.

United were fortunate not to fall behind after Wigan appeared to have taken the lead through Victor Moses midway through the first half, only for the goal to be ruled out for a foul on a United goalkeeper David de Gea. But United were not so fortunate on 50 minutes when Wigan took the lead with a magical strike from Maloney, curling his superb shot beyond De Gea after a clever short corner routine.

“It was a disappointing night for us, we were second to every ball in the first half and we were completely dominated by Wigan,” Ferguson said. “It was one of those off nights that you sometimes get in football.”

The United manager was also critical of referee Phil Dowd but added, “That doesn’t take away from the fact that Wigan were the better team and deserved to win.”

Ferguson added: “It’s important to win our home games now. We’ll improve from this performance, I’m sure of that.” — Internet

Premier League to launch 20 Seasons Awards

Greatest players, managers and moments in Premier League history will be honoured in the 20 Seasons Awards which launch on 17 April.

LONDON, 12 April — This season is the 20th campaign of the Premier League and to celebrate the landmark, accolades will be awarded to the incredible people and the memorable moments that have helped make the competition so much-watched in the world.

The shortlists will be announced next week, and you can get involved with the Premier League’s 11 categories, five of which will be determined by a public vote and six by a panel of leading football figures, journalists and commentators.

The panel will decide on:

- Best Player
- Best Manager
- Best Team
- Best Season
- Most Memorable Quote
- The public vote will recognise:

- Best Goal
- Best Match
- Best Save
- Best Celebration

As well as reviewing the category shortlists, the Premier League 20 Seasons website will have an interactive tour of all of the nominations so fans can live the shortlisted goals, matches, saves and celebrations to help make their selections. And the public can also select an ultimate Premier League Fantasy Team from a shortlist of the greatest players from the last 20 years. Fans can pick a goalkeeper, two centre-backs, one left-back, one right-back, two central midfielders, one right midfielder, one left midfielder and two forwards for an all-time XI. There are 10 shortlisted players in each position. The shortlist for all the categories have been created by nominations submitted by all UK national newspapers as well as the Premier League’s five live broadcast Partners in the UK.

A number of the winners will be honoured at a special presentation ceremony on Tuesday 15th May.

Big debts lie behind Spanish football glory

MADRID, 12 April — Spanish football may be enjoying one of its most successful eras, powered by Barcelona and Real Madrid’s charge through the Champions League, but the glittering success on the pitch hides a darker story. As Real and Barca are through to the elite Champions League semi-finals, and three Spanish clubs are into the Europa League last four, a survey of the accounts of the country’s top clubs reveals a tale of crippling debts and tax arrears.

Real Madrid lead Barcelona by four points at the top of La Liga, but the two global superstars also rival each other in the depth of their debts — Real have accumulated 589 million euros ($772 million) to Barcelona’s 578 million euros. The archrivals’ debts eclipse their revenues, which are currently 470 million euros for Real Madrid and 450 million euros for Barcelona.

European League semi-finals Valencia and Atletico Madrid are also both awash with red ink, to the tune of 382 and 514 million euros respectively.

The latest figure to hit the headlines in Spain is the 752 million euros that Spain’s elite clubs owe to the tax man at a time when more than five million are unemployed and the government is asking citizens for more sacrifices. The sports ministry announced a plan to ensure that football pays for its own debts. But for the moment it is unclear how they will do so. — Internet
Danish navy frees 12 hostages, holds 16 Somali pirates

COPENHAGEN, 12 April—The Danish navy said Thursday it had stopped a pirate ship off the Somali coast, rescuing 12 Taiwanese and Pakistani hostages and arresting their 16 captors.

“The Danish warship Absalon yesterday (Wednesday) stopped a pirate mother-ship. Sixteen suspected pirates have been arrested. Twelve hostages from Pakistan and Iran have been rescued,” the navy said in a statement.

No one was injured during the operation,” navy spokesman Mikael Bill told AFP, adding that nine of the hostages were Pakistani and three were Iranians and that they had been held by the suspected pirates for about a month.

“They were being held on their own boat,” a fishing vessel, which the pirates had hijacked and used to attack other ships, Bill explained.

The operation took place Wednesday morning and was quickly over, he said, pointing out that the Absalon, a Danish vessel Absalon leaves the Frederikshavn Harbour in northern Jutland, on 12 Sept, 2011.

command and support ship which is part of a NATO-led counter-piracy mission called Ocean Shield, had not needed to use armed force.—Reuters

Malaysia to double trade with UK to nearly 13 bln USD by 2016

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 April—The United Kingdom and Malaysia agreed on Thursday to double the bilateral trade to eight billion pounds (12.74 billion US dollars) by 2016.

The two countries also decided to expand education and defence links at the end of a meeting between Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and visiting British Prime Minister David Cameron.

“We both agreed that the opportunity for us to enhance bilateral trade is simply enormous and both our economic ministers have agreed we should try to double our bilateral trade by 2016,” said Najib.

“It’s an ambitious goal but we will try to work towards that,” Najib told a joint Press conference after meeting with Cameron at his residence in the federal administrative centre of Putrajaya.

“In trade and investment, our ambition is simple; it is to do a step change in business and investment that is why I came with a strong delegation,” Cameron said.

Two children killed in roadside bombing in S Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, 12 April—Two children were killed and six other civilians injured Thursday when a roadside bomb went off in the country’s southern province of Helmand, a spokesman for the provincial government said.

“Two innocent children were killed and six other civilians injured when a vehicle touched off a roadside bomb on a road at about 9 am local time in Safar area of Garmisar District,” spokesman Daud Ahmadi told Xinhua.

He blamed Taleban for the attack. Taleban militants have used Improvised Explosive Device (IED) or roadside bombs and suicide bombers in their attacks which also inflicted casualties on civilians.

A total of 3,021 Afghan civilians were killed in 2011, up by 8 percent compared with 2010, according to a United Nations annual report released in Kabul in February.

Boca Juniors beats Fluminense 2-0 in Copa Libertadores

RIODEJANEIRO, 12 April—Argentina’s Boca Juniors beat Brazil’s Fluminense 2-0 in the Copa Libertadores group stage on Wednesday.

Fluminense still have a two-point lead over Boca in group 4 with one match remaining, but the team lost its top-ranked status in the competition to Argentina’s Velez Sarsfield, which defeated Chivas 2-0 in Mexico, also on Wednesday night.

In front of a near-capacity 46,000 crowd at Rio’s Engenhao stadium, Juan Sanchez Mino and Dario Cvitanich both capitalized on defensive errors to score either side of the break for the Argentinians.

Fluminense had the chance to reduce the deficit to a goal with five minutes remaining when referee Dario Ubriaco pointed to the penalty spot after Wellington Nem was brought down by Rolando Schiavi when clear on goal.

Danish vessel Absalon leaves the Frederikshavn Harbour in northern Jutland, on 12 Sept, 2011.

Nicolas Anelka (right) is to help coach the Shanghai Shenhua club along with his playing duties.—Reuters

Anelka named as Shenhua ‘player-coach’

SHANGHAI, 12 April—French striker Nicolas Anelka has been handed a new role at Shanghai Shenhua as the Chinese Super League side sacked three assistant coaches following a dismal run of results.

The 33-year-old Anelka will become a “player-coach” at Shenhua, participating in the management of daily training, Visitation to Meditation Centres throughout Myanmar, having won only two of their five league matches so far.

Anelka, the most high-profile foreign player ever to sign for Shenhua are now 11th in the Chinese Super League.

Things should be better communication with my teammates on the pitch,” Anelka said.

Meanwhile, according to club statement.

The 33-year-old Anelka will become a “player-coach” at Shenhua, participating in the management of daily training, as well as working with the first team.

Dances through Myanmar

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR TV

(13-4-2012)(Friday)
7:00 am
1. Parritta By Hilly Region Missionary
2. Parrika By Hilly Region Missionary
7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy
8:10 am
3. The Mirror Images of
4. Dance of Thingyan Festival
4:20 pm
5. Song of National Races
4:35 pm
6. University of Distance Education
7:00 pm
7. Singing In Different
8:00 pm
8. Sports Highlight
9:00 pm
9. Teleplay
7:35 pm
10. Yan Aung’s Passion
2:30 pm
For Thin Gyan
2:00 pm
12. Myanmar Video Feature

Syllabus of the Day

1. Lee’s Encyclopedia
2. Nile’s Encyclopedia
3. Aloe Vera for Health
5. History of the World
6. Science
7. National Dance
8. National Music
9. National Flower
10. Myanmar Video
11. Myanmar Movie “The Water Festival Rain”

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 13th April, 2012

Table: Weather forecast for 13th April, 2012

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<th>Area</th>
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<td>Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers (60%)</td>
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The new light of Myanmar Friday, 13 April, 2012

15
YANGON, 12 April—Today is 1373 ME Maha Thingyan Akyo Day. The opening ceremonies of over 150 pandals, big and small, in Yangon were held this morning.

Yangon Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal was opened at 7.30 am and choral dance troupes performed dances at the pandal till the evening.

Region Forestry and Energy Minister U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Commissioner U Hlaing Soe Thant and Township Administrator U San Min attended opening of Maha Thingyan Pandal of Yangon East District in Thakayta Township. A total of 59 pandals were opened in Yangon East District.

Region Transportation and Communications Minister U Aung Khin, Region Electricity and Industry Minister U Nyan Tun Oo and Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu Zaw formally opened the pandal of Yangon West District in Ahlon Township. A total of 79 pandals were opened in townships of Yangon West District.

Deputy Commissioner U Sai Thaw Win extended greetings at opening ceremony Yangon South District Maha Thingyan Pandal in Thanlyin Township this morning. The township administrator, the chief of Township Police Force, the executive officers of township development affairs committee, a townselder formally opened the pandal. Region (See page 8)

Over 150 Maha Thingyan Pandals opened in Yangon

MANDALAY, 12 April—Sky Net TV and Mandalay FM will broadcast live entertainment of Mandalay Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal 1373 ME.

At the Mayor’s Pandal, Myanamarpi Thiri Tan, Zaw Paing, Marizza, Ye Lay, Khin Maung Htoo, Than Myat Soe, Kyi Tha (Pwe Kyai Khin), L. Seng Xi, Chit Thu Wai, Yadana Mai, Nan Hsu Yati Soe, comedians and the mom group of film artists will perform entertainment to the accompaniment of Metal Zone Band of Yangon.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)