President U Thein Sein receives British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron of the United Kingdom at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 12.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu and departmental heads.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon joyfully participate in Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 April—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon enjoyed the Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME on Thingyan Akya day today. On arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal in front of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall at 3.20 pm, the Vice-President and wife were welcomed by Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt and wife by sprinkling scented water at them in line with the Myanmar traditions.

Next, the Vice-President and wife enjoyed the Thingyan songs and dances presented by choral dancers of ministries, famous vocalists and artists on the stage of the pandal.

Together with Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Othn Myint, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tin Htun, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Hay Aung and Dr Win Myint, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and family members, the Vice-President and wife joyfully participated in the Maha Thingyan Festival.

At Sky Net family water throwing pandal in front of Shwe Ethel Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, the Vice-President and party were welcomed by Deputy Ministers U Soe Win, U Khin

(See page 9)
More pious deeds than fun

Now we are all in festive mood again, as we are celebrating Myanmar New Year festival for six days this year. In the wards, little boys and little girls are splashing water over the people while adults are filling their tubs and giving protection to these kids. Revelers mostly teens go around town in search of water-throwing pavilions that are also entertaining the public with dances and songs.

Decorated boats roam cities and towns presenting dance and songs the whole day till night during the festival. There are also decorated float competitions and decorated water-throwing pavilion contests in big cities like Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and in many minor towns. Film stars and pop idols also join in the festival entertaining the general public with songs and dances from the stages of water-throwing pavilions or on the decorated floats. People are happy to see their favorite artistes in person. On some stages, famous comedians crack clean jokes or sing antiphonal chants adding extra joy to the festival.

Some communities set up pavilions where volunteers serve food or snacks to every one free of charge. People young and old retreat to meditation centres where they practice vipassana which according to teachings of Buddha is the only way to Nirvana, while others enter religious order temporarily. So many men become monks and women nuns during the Thingyan holidays. Most of the elder people go to monasteries where they seek Dhamma from the venerable or learned monks, keep Sabbath and share Dhamma knowledge among themselves.

On the final day or the New Year Day of the festival people focus only one doing meritorious deeds. They release fish, birds and other animals, help senior citizens at their homes or at the homes for the aged, provide sanitation services at pagodas, visit monasteries or seek Dhamma from monks.

So every year we Buddhists celebrate Thingyan with more pious deeds than fun.

Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival crowded with revellers

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival was packed with revellers today (on Maha Thingyan Akya Day) around Mandalay Moat. Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe, guests and members of Mandalay Region government participated in the festival at Pandal of Myanmar Hoteliers Association, Central Command Headquarters Family, United Company Group, Irrigation Department and Alpine, and enjoyed songs and dances entertained by vocalists and actors and actresses.

Due to the precaution of Mandalay Region Traffic Rule Enforcement Supervisory Committee, there was least traffic jam around Mandalay Moat than before. As Thingyan pandals are crowded with photographers and people who are taking photos for the photo contest of Information and Traffic Department, there was least traffic jam around Mandalay Moat than before. As Thingyan pandals are crowded with photographers and people who are taking photos for the photo contest of Information and Traffic Department, there was least traffic jam around Mandalay Moat than before.

In the evening, Thingyan floats are competing for Mandalay Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal. The Mandalay Mayor, Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Maung and wife, guests, Secretary U San Maung, committee members, families enjoyed songs and dances at Mandalay Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal.—MNA

Mon State opens Maha Thingyan Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—The opening ceremony of Mon State Maha Thingyan Festival was held yesterday evening at central pandal of Mawlamyine.

State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, the State Hluttaw speaker, the Commander of South-East Command and the State Planning and Economy minister formally opened the festival. The choral dancers performed dances and the chief minister and guests poured water on those present.

The State chief minister also attended the opening of the South-East Command Pandal.—MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister attends Maha Thingyan opening ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win attended opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Festival at Central Pandal of Bago yesterday evening and formally opened the festival. The choral dancers performed dances. The Chief Minister and wife also attended opening ceremonies of pandals in Bago.

The Region Chief Minister attended the concluding ceremony of 2545° Buddha Puja in Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago and donated alms to members of the Sangha.—MNA

Taunggyi Maha Thingyan opened

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut and officials attended opening ceremonies of Taunggyi Maha Thingyan Festival and pandals yesterday. Choral dancers performed dances and the chief minister, the commander and guests poured water on those present at the ceremonies. —MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 14 April, 2012

More pious deeds than fun

Now we are all in festive mood again, as we are celebrating Myanmar New Year festival for six days this year. In the wards, little boys and little girls are splashing water over the people while adults are filling their tubs and giving protection to these kids. Revelers mostly teens go around town in search of water-throwing pavilions that are also entertaining the public with dances and songs. 

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On the final day or the New Year Day of the festival people focus only one doing meritorious deeds. They release fish, birds and other animals, help senior citizens at their homes or at the homes for the aged, provide sanitation services at pagodas, visit monasteries or seek Dhamma from monks.

So every year we Buddhists celebrate Thingyan with more pious deeds than fun.
Three killed in train accident in Germany

BERLIN, 13 April—Three people were killed and 13 others were injured when a regional train collided with a works engine near the German town of Offenbach on Friday, the BBC reported. A total of 35 passengers were on board the train travelling from Frankfurt to Hanau when the train ran into a maintenance crane on the track.

The train driver and two members of a construction crew were killed, German media reported. Seven people were taken to hospital with severe injuries.

Two coast guard members shot dead at Alaska base

ANCHORAGE, 13 April—Two members of the Coast Guard were shot dead at a communications station on Alaska’s Kodiak Island, prompting an investigation by the FBI and a lockdown of the base, officials said on Thursday. The Federal Bureau of Investigation said there was no immediate evidence of terrorism or sabotage, but a security alert was in force at the installation because the circumstances surrounding the deaths were unclear.

FBI and Coast Guard officials declined to say whether investigators believed they were dealing with a domestic or international murder-suicide. The deaths marked the first fatal shootings at a Coast Guard facility in Alaska in over a decade. “Since we don’t have all the details, we strongly advise that all Kodiak residents remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement officials,” Captain Jesse Moore, base commanding officer, said in a statement soon after the shootings were first reported.

“We are deeply saddened that we lost two shipmates.—Reuters

Shell says Gulf of Mexico sheen dissipating

HOUSTON, 13 April—Royal Dutch Shell said an oil sheen near two of its offshore Gulf of Mexico oil and natural gas platforms was dissipating Thursday, and it was “very confident” its installations were not to blame.

The Hague-based company said the “orphan spill,” estimated to be about six barrels of oil, was breaking up. Shell said it would continue monitoring the sea floor with a pair of underwater robots.

“Shell’s subssea surveillance today and tomorrow will continue to determine if there is a connection between natural seeps and this orphan sheen,” the company said. News of the sheen, first reported to US regulators on Wednesday, came nearly two years after BP’s deep sea Macondo well blew out on 20 April, 2010, killing 11 workers and spewing more than 4 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The earlier drop in the company’s London-listed share price showed that investors remain anxious over potential oil accidents two years after the BP offshore spill, the worst ever in the United States.

Shares of Shell traded on the New York Stock Exchange closed up 11 cents on Thursday at $67.96. The stock closed down less than 1 percent in London after falling as much as 8 percent earlier in the day, temporarily erasing roughly $12 billion in value from Europe’s largest oil company by market capitalization.—Reuters

Indonesia quake a record, risks for Sumatra

SINGAPORE, 13 April—The powerful undersea earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra this week was once in 2,000 years, and although it resulted in only a few deaths, it increases the risks of a killer quake in the region, a leading seismologist said.

Wednesday’s 8.6 magnitude quake and a powerful aftershock were “strike-slip” quakes and the largest of that type recorded, Kerry Sieh, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore, told Reuters. “It’s a really an exceptionally large and rare event,” he said.

“Besides it being the biggest strike-slip earthquake ever recorded, the aftershock is the second biggest as far as we can tell,” said Sieh, who has studied the seismically active, and deadly, fault zones around Sumatra for years. Strike-slip quakes involve the horizontal movement of colliding earth plates, and are typically less powerful than those where there is vertical movement. They are also less likely to trigger big tsunamis, or tidal waves. A magnitude 9.1 quake in roughly the same region on Boxing Day in 2004 decimated Aceh province on Sumatra and killed over 230,000 people in 13 countries around the Indian Ocean.

Sumatra, the western-most island in the sprawling Indonesian archipelago, has a history of powerful quakes and tsunamis, most triggered by an offshore zone along its entire length, where the Indian-Australian tectonic plate is forced under the Eurasian plate. This creates a deep ocean trench as one plate slides under the other at a rate of several centimeters a year.

In this zone, the so-called Sunda megathrust, stress builds up as the subducting Indian-Australian plate bends the Eurasian plate like a spring board as it moves down into the Earth’s crust.

Eventually enough stress builds up that the edge of the...
Contact lost with flagship Envisat spacecraft

ESA was expecting to turn off the spacecraft in 2014, once the first in a series of follow-on launches had been launched. A recovery team, which includes experts from industry, is now working to try to re-establish contact with the platform. It is not uncommon for communications with a satellite to be lost from time to time, and controllers will be encouraged that the spacecraft appears to be in a stable condition as it moves around the globe from pole to pole. Envisat has been at the forefront of European Earth observation endeavours for a decade. It carries 10 sophisticated instruments to monitor the land, the oceans, Earth’s ice cover and its atmosphere. The mission is due to be replaced by the Sentinel series of satellites. The first of these — Sentinel 1 — is supposed to take over the radar duties of Envisat when it is launched next year. Scientists had hoped to have the pair operating in orbit together for a period of time so they could cross-calibrate their data.

Satellite mapping pinpoints penguin population

SYDNEY, 13 April — Counting emperor penguins in their icy Antarctic habitat was not easy until researchers used new technology to map the birds from space, and they received a pleasant penguin surprise for their efforts. Using satellite mapping with resolution high enough to distinguish ice shadows from penguin poo, an international team has carried out what they say is an unprecedented penguin census from the heavens over the past three years. The good news was that the team found the Antarctic emperor penguin population numbered about 950,000, nearly double previous estimates.

But the bad news was that some colonies have disappeared altogether due to changing weather patterns and the long-term future of the birds is far from assured. “Yes, this is the first comprehensive census of a species taken from space, absolutely,” said Barbara Witekmeier, a bird ecologist with the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) who spoke with Reuters by phone from the Aurora Australis research vessel. Previous counts have been inaccurate due to rough terrain that made some colonies inaccessible and frigid temperatures that can plummet to -50 degrees Celsius (-58 Fahrenheit).

Microsoft wins its biggest cloud computing client

Microsoft announced its biggest-ever customer for cloud computing — software that it hosts on behalf of clients and delivers over the Internet — after winning a contract to provide free services to a major Indian education body. Microsoft, which was built on the sale of expensive software that is installed on individual computers, has been forced by competition from Google and others to branch out into the fast-growing world of cloud computing. The US software giant said on Thursday it would provide its Live@edu communication and collaboration software to more than 7 million students and half a million teachers through a deal with the All India Council for Technical Education.

The service, which Microsoft is providing for free as part of its education initiative, includes email, Office Web applications, instant messaging and storage. For users, cloud computing is inexpensive and simple, because it removes the need to spend time and money on installing software and managing servers. Large government departments are prime targets for vendors such as Microsoft and Google. Last June, Microsoft unveiled a revamped online version of its hugely profitable Office software suite. A visitor uses his mobile phone as he walks past the Microsoft booth with a logo for cloud computing software application at the CeBit computer fair in Hanover, on 6 March, 2012. — Internet

Google stock split helps Page, Brin maintain grip

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 April — Google Inc announced a stock split designed to preserve the control of co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin over the world’s No 1 Web search engine, asking investors to trust their long-term vision. The surprise decision, which its board unanimously approved, came as the company exceeded Wall Street’s profit expectations but revealed a worrying 12 percent drop in search advertising rates — the second consecutive quarterly decline. Shares of Google, which finished Thursday’s regular session at $651.01, rose to $653 in after-hours trading.

The announcement came just as Page completed a year in the chief executive’s seat for the second time, during which he spearheaded the $12.5 billion acquisition of Motorola Mobility and launched a social network to take on Facebook. “This stock split dividend, a dividend of a non-voting shares, is really just so the company can maintain control,” BGC analyst Colin Gillis said. “Plus, you have another quarter with a disturbing drop in click prices. OK, paid clicks are up but people are paying less for them. We had smartphones before the December quarter. If we want to blame it all on smartphones, that’s a little disconcerting.

Google said its board of directors has approved a 2-for-1 stock split. Investors will get a dividend of one share of the new, non-voting “Class C” stock for each existing Google share. The new shares, to be listed on Nasdaq under a separate ticker, will be available for corporate uses such as equity-based compensation for employees, in which case they would not dilute the share base.

“When we went public, we created a dual-class voting structure,” Page said in a letter explaining the moves. “Our goal was to maintain a freedom of focus on the long term by ensuring that the management team, in particular Eric, Sergey and I, retained control over Google’s destiny,” the letter said.

EU investigates Internet’s spread to more devices

BRUSSELS, 13 April — The European Commission is extending a probe into the spread of the Internet. The regulator says it expects an explosion in the number of household appliances and other devices connected to the net before 2020. It is launching a consultation over controls of the information gathered, stored and processed, saying it wants to “ensure the rights of individuals are respected.”

The public is being invited to send in its views before a 12 July deadline. The commission said it had found “a worrying 12 percent drop in search advertising rates — the second consecutive quarterly decline” at Google. The surprise decision, which its board unanimously approved, came as the company exceeded Wall Street’s profit expectations but revealed a worrying 12 percent drop in search advertising rates — the second consecutive quarterly decline. Shares of Google, which finished Thursday’s regular session at $651.01, rose to $653 in after-hours trading.

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More unmarried couples having babies

WASHINGTON, 13 April — More unmarried women who live with their partners are having babies than ever before, a new government report shows. Twenty-seven percent of births in 2009 and 2010 were to such couples — a threefold increase from 1985, researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found. “It’s thought that in births outside of marriage, one parent isn’t present. But our data is showing that a large proportion do have two parents, even though they’re not married,” said report author Gladys Martinez, a demographer in the CDC’s Division of Vital Statistics.

In addition, not only are many older women giving birth, but many are also having more than one child. She said, “We know that women have been delaying childbirth,” Martinez said. “But there is also an increase in the number of older women who have more than one kid, and we expected that to be even higher if we interviewed even older women.” Martinez noted that women who delay having children tend to be better educated. Nearly 69 percent of women who did not complete high school had their first child as a teenager, compared with only 4 percent of women with a college degree. The data in the report was gathered from more than 22,000 interviews done between 2006 and 2010 with men and women aged 15 to 44.

The data was compared with similar data from 2002, according to the CDC. “It’s surprising that so many unmarried couples are having children,” said Dr Christine Mullin, a reproductive endocrinologist and infertility specialist at Human Re-production at North Shore-LIJ Health System in Manhasset, NY.

Mullin also noted that, for older women, having one child is enough. Women who delay giving birth usually do so for education and career reasons, she added.

Other highlights of the report include:

* Forty-three percent of women whose first birth occurred between the ages of 35 and 44, and children; it was 26 percent in 1995.
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* Almost 40 percent of women whose first birth occurred between the ages of 35 and 44 had an average of 2.1 children.

China economy growth dips to 8.1% in the first quarter

LONDON, 13 April — China’s economy, the world’s second-largest, has expanded at its slowest pace in almost three years. Gross domestic product increased by an annual rate of 8.1% in the first quarter, down from 8.9% in the previous three months. That is less than many analysts had forecast with most of them expecting a figure closer to 9.5%. China’s economy has been hit by a drop in demand in key markets including the US and Europe. At the same time domestic demand has proven tough to stimulate. “We are slightly disappointed,” said Kevin Lai of Daiwa Capital Markets. “It was an upside surprise with exports and some internal signs of consumption,” said Kevin Lai of Daiwa Capital Markets. “On Thursday, the World Bank warned that China’s economy may slow further in the coming months. “China’s gradual slowdown is expected to continue into 2012, as consumption growth slows somewhat, investment growth decelerates more pronouncedly and external demand remains weak,” said Ardo Hansson, the World Bank’s lead economist for China.

The bank cut its growth outlook for the Chinese economy to 2012 for 8.2% from its earlier projection of 8.4%. It cautioned that a slowdown in Beijing’s key export markets and “the ongoing correction in China’s property market” were key risks to growth in the future. The rise in property and consumer prices in the country has been the focus of China’s policymakers over the past few months. The central bank has taken various measures to curb lending in an attempt to control consumer price growth and keep property prices in check. The measures appear to be having the desired effect. The rate of inflation, which hit a three-year high of 6.5% in July last year, has since slowed down. Consumer prices in March were 3.6% from a year earlier, lower than the government’s target of 4% for the year.

The same time, property prices have fallen for five consecutive months, easing concerns about the formation of asset bubbles. However, analysts said that while the government’s policies had yielded positive results, authorities needed to ensure that they maintained a balance between sustaining growth and keeping prices in check.

“Although the un Maoists are currently in power, economic growth has been strong due to the government’s efforts to maintain economic growth and keep prices in check. However, analysts said that while the government’s policies had yielded positive results, authorities needed to ensure that they maintained a balance between sustaining growth and keeping prices in check. The basic threat is that the credit squeeze may hurt investment and slow growth more than the policymakers want, said Richard Jerram of the Bank of Singapore.

“It is difficult to manage it precisely, which is why people continue to be worried that things might slow down too much.”

Kraft discontinues Athenos Greek yogurt

NEW YORK, 13 April — Kraft Foods Inc is discontinuing its Athenos line of Greek yogurt, the company said on Thursday, exiting the fast-growing US Greek yogurt market. Athenos, which also makes feta cheese, hummus and pita chips, discontinued the yogurt in March. “Although we had a loyal following of Athenos Greek yogurt fans, we have decided to refocus our efforts on innovating new products for the Athenos brand,” a Kraft spokesman said in a statement. “We know that this is very disappointing to consumers, and it was extremely difficult decision for us to make.”

Sales of Greek yogurt, which is thicker and has more protein than other yogurt, have soared in the United States in the last few years. The market is dominated by privately held Agro Farma, whose Chobani brand has about a 60 percent share. Danone is second with 31 percent, followed by Greek-based Fage, and Yoplait owner General Mills. Kraft Foods is preparing to split into two companies — one focused on snack brands like Cadbury, Oreo and Ritz and one focused on grocery brands like Oscar Mayer, Maxwell House and Planters. — Reuters

Mortgage rates hit new record lows

WASHINGTON, 13 April — The average rate for a 15-year fixed-rate mortgage hit a record low of 3.88 percent for the week ending on 12 April, according to Freddie Mac. The rate fell .10 percent from the previous week and is 3.61 percent below the previous 30-year mortgage rate of 3.87 percent in February. The average rate for 15-year mortgages fell to a record low 3.11 percent.

“Fixed mortgage rates eased for the third consecutive week following long-term Treasury yields lower after a weaker than expected employment report for March,” Frank Nothaft, vice president and chief economist at Freddie Mac, said in a statement. “Although the unemployment rate fell to the lowest level since February 2009, the overall economy added 202,000 new jobs in March. In March, the Federal Reserve made a .25% cut in the market consensus forecast,” said Nothaft. “On a more positive note, the Federal Reserve announced that it would reduce the monthly target for mortgage applications from the previous week. But, there has been some bright spots in the real estate market. The mild winter has helped lift expectations for the housing market after four years of slugs sales,” according to the Associated Press. “January and February made up the best winter for re-sales in five years, when the housing crisis began. And builders in February had purchased the most permits to construct homes in more than three years,” according to the AP.

German MPs call for under-18 ban on cosmetic surgery

BERLIN, 13 April — Plastic surgery could be outlawed for under-18-year-olds unless medically necessary under a proposal by lawmakers from Germany’s ruling party, according to a document seen by AFP on Thursday. The politicians argue that using the knife for breast enlargement or nose operations should be off the cards for minors, a draft position paper states.

“Even with a proper explanation, it is not justifiable for the young person is aware of the full implications of the decision to undergo plastic surgery,” the lawmakers argue in their paper.

“Other arguments favoring a ban on cosmetic surgery are that the therapy could be performed at a later stage of development and that the patient’s physical and psychological reasons slip away with the years,” a spokesman said.

The move was generally welcomed by medical associations. “We support a ban on cosmetic surgery on children under 18,” said the president of the German Medical Association, Martin Weker, told AFP. The German Society of Plastic, Re-constructive and Aesthetic Surgery (DGPRAC) also basically gave the move the thumbs up but warned of the need for certain caveats.

“With a sweeping ban there’s the danger that patients for whom interventions are necessary for psychological reasons slip through the net,” a spokeswoman said.

Export and manufacturing sectors have been one of the biggest drivers of China’s economic growth — Internet

In China, life expectancy should reach 74.5 years by 2015, Chinese Health Minister Chen Zhu, said on Thursday. — Internet

A general view of a session of the Bundestag, lower house of parliament in Berlin in 2011. Plastic surgery could be outlawed for under-18-year-olds unless medically necessary under a proposal by lawmakers from Germany’s ruling party, according to a document seen by AFP on Thursday. — Internet

The new light of myanmar Saturday, 14 april, 2012
News photos depicting celebrations of Myanmar people far and wide the country on Maha Thingyan Akya Day

Kandawgyi Lake ringroad teeming with revellers on Maha Thingyan Akya Day.

Yangon Mayor’s Pandal packed with merry-makers on Thingyan Akya Day.

Revellers play water in No. 16 Street in Latha Township of Maha Thingyan Akya Day.

Nyaunglebin Township Pandal packed with revellers on Thingyan Akya Day.

Shwe Than Lwin Pandal crowded with revellers on Thingyan Akya Day.—MNA
**The Thingyan Days I Would Always Remember**

**Hpone Thant**

My most memorable Thingyan days were when our family was still young. We had only two children then, a boy and a girl. The 3rd son was not yet born. Inside our compound in Yangon there is a well that my parents had. It was a good one. We used to draw water for our daily needs. The water was cool and refreshing. Sometimes, when the water was low, we would have to wait for the water to refill. On Thingyan days, we would decorate the well with flowers and put up a small flag. It became a symbol of our joy.

Every morning during Thingyan the children troops out with buckets and water guns ready to splash everyone passing by with Thingyan water. Our duty was to regularly refill the huge tub with water drawn from the well and keep an eye on them too. We had no electric motor to pump up the water from the well, just the old fashioned pulley system hanging on the crossbar above the well. My son would be armed with a water gun but the three girls would have small buckets in their hands. The children were so happy, splashing everyone in sight with Thingyan water.

Sometimes an overloaded Jeep or a small utility truck with revellers would detour into our small street to pick up the children. They might even throw back water at the revellers on the Jeep would taunt them and make the children happy. At the Kandawgyi Lake in the evening the children would stage dancing and singing and thungnyat (a form of satirical verses) and short plays. Dealing with the revellers in our street. He loves the children very much and the children are also not afraid of him, treating him as their very good friend. If there is nobody coming for the children to douse with water, he would volunteer. He would take off his shirt and parade up and down in front of the children and give them a chance to splash water on him. He would also make fun by sometimes soaping himself and letting the children pour water onto his head.

In the evening time there would be entertainment too. A visit to the prize awarding pandal situated near our house is always a treat. The children there would be dancing and singing. Sometimes a competing troupe on a gaily decorated float would be there. The children would stage dancing and singing and thungnyat (a form of satirical verses) and short plays. Dealing with the revellers on the Jeep would taunt them and make the children happy.

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President U Thein Sein…
(from page 1)
The British Prime Minister and party were accompanied by Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Andrew Richard Heyn.

At the call, they held discussions on promotion of friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries, and tasks for sector-wise cooperation in progress of internal politics and peace process and development of socio economy in a cordial manner.

After that, President U Thein Sein hosted a special luncheon in honour of the British delegation led by British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron.— MNA

British Prime Minister Rt. Hon.

Mr. David Cameron arrives Yangon

YANGON, 13 April— British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron and party left Nay Pyi Taw by a special flight this evening and arrived at Yangon at 4 pm. He was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor Y Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister U Hla Myint, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and responsible personnel of the British Embassy in Yangon.

The British Prime Minister received Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National League for Democracy at her home on University Avenue in Kamayut Township and made a press conference. Afterwards, the British Prime Minister and party visited War Cemetery in Sanyaung Township and laid a wreath. They visited Shwedagon Pagoda at 10 pm and left Yangon by the special flight. — MNA

Kachin State Maha Thingyan Festival opened

NAV PI TAW, 13 April—Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai announced the opening of Maha Thingyan Festival of Kachin State at Central Pandal in Myikyina yesterday evening. Members of region level organizations formally opened the festival.

The Chief Minister and wife sprinkled scented water on choral dancers and those present at the ceremony which was also attended by members of region level organizations, Hluttaw representatives, departmental personnel and local people.

Sagaing Region’s Maha Thingyan Festival opened

NAV PI TAW, 13 April—The opening ceremony of 1373 ME Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival of Sagaing Region was held in front of City Hall of Monywa yesterday evening, attended by Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Thin Hlaing, Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Thaung Sein, members of Region level organizations, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, choral dancers, decorated floats and local people.

Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein read out New Year message of the organizing committee and the chief minister formally opened the festival. Choral dancers performed dances and the chief minister and party poured scented water on those present.

Eleven decorated floats performed entertainments alternatively.— MNA

Rakhine State Maha Thingyan Fragrance Grinding Contest and Central Pandal opened

NAV PI TAW, 13 April—Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and wife Daw Nu Nu Zan and officials attended 1373 ME Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival at Central Pandal in Mawlamyine yesterday morning. The Chief Minister, State Social Affairs Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, State Electricity and Industry Minister U Tha Lu Che formally opened the contest.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister, State Social Affairs Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min formally opened the pandal where choral dancers staged dances.— MNA

British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron being welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

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Rakhine State Maha Thingyan Fragrance Grinding Contest and Central Pandal opened by Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and wife Daw Nu Nu Zan and officials.

British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron being welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at Yangon International Airport.
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham,

(from page 1)

Zaw, U Tin Lwin and U Aung Than Oo, Chairman of Shwe Thanwin Co U Kyaw Win and party.

After enjoying entertainments of film artistes and vocalists at the water throwing pandal, the Vice-President cordially greeted the artistes.

He then joyfully participated in the water throwing festival after awarding the artistes and vocalists.

At the pandal of Max Myanmar Group of Companies, the Vice-President and party enjoyed the entertainment of choral dancers.

After presenting cash awards to the dancers, they enjoyed the water throwing festival.

They also visited the water throwing pandal of ACE Group of Companies and presented cash awards to the artistes and vocalists. Then, they participated in the festival.

At Hotel Shwe Pyi Taw’s pandal, they watched entertainments and presented cash awards to them. Afterwards, the Vice-President and wife happily partook in the water festival.

In the Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME, artistes Academy Min Maw Kun, Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Academy Nay Aung, Academy Ye Aung, Academy Zin the Vice-President and wife happily partook in the water throwing festival.

— MNA

Magway Region Chief Minister attends Maha Thingyan Festival

Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe formally opens Thingyan Water Festival in Magway.— MNA

Sagaiing Region Chief Minister oversees regional development tasks

NAVPyiTaw, 13 April—Sagaiing Region Chief Minister/Tha Aye inspected construction of communication tower of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, site chosen for construction of 100-bed People’s Hospital and progress in construction of Myothit road in Khamti on 10 April morning.

He met township level departmental personnel and townsenders at meeting hall of township Administrator’s Office where he heard reports submitted by Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw and Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Than of Khamti who reported on requirements for regional development.

After that, Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye made coordination upon the reports.

He also inspected condition of retaining wall of the Chindwin river, works for smooth water flow of the river and Border Areas and National Races Youths Development School in Khamti and construction of Sasana Beikman in Maha Sagaing.

— MNA

Ayeyawady Region Maha Thingyan Central Pandal opened

A ceremony to open Maha Thingyan Festival in Ayeyawady Region in progress.— MNA

Thingyan enthusiasts enjoy Thingyan festival on Maha Thingyan Akya Day

NAVPyiTaw, 13 April—Yesterday Maha Thingyan Akya Day, Thingyan pandals all in the four districts in Yangon Region including Yangon Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal were respectively opened. Thingyan enthusiasts partook in the festival today Maha Thingyan Akya Day as well.

Yein troupes and Alinka Wutyi Myanmar orchestral music show-band entertained Thingyan enthusiasts with their performances at Yangon Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal today.

There were streams of Thingyan revelers plus foreigners happily partaking in the festival at Thingyan pandals in Yangon Region.

Also offering free snacks were respectively made everywhere, which is a Myanmar lovely custom.

Yangon Region Minister for Road Transport U Aung Khin and party paid a close attention to process of offering free snacks taken place at No. 9 Ward in Kamayut this morning.

While some are being among the partakers in Thingyan festival, some are welcoming Myanmar New Year keeping Sabbath and making good deeds such as offering free snacks and releasing animals etc.— MNA
Safety for danger of fire, electricity checked in Okkan

YANGON, 13 April—
Safety for danger of fire and electricity was undertaken at schools, markets and wards in Okkan Taungyikhailand Township in Yangon Region on 5 April. The administrator of Anawrahta Ward and party, the commander of Okkan Police Station and policemen, members of Fire Brigade, technicians of Township Electrical Engineer’s Office and Township Development Affairs Committee inspected electric meter boxes, wire systems, switches and control board, sanitisation of garbage bins, and safety use of electricity at the shops in Okkan Monastery Market of Taungyikhailand Township.

They then checked the sales of fuel and lubricants. Later, they participated in the demonstration on fire drill.

Township Fire Brigade

CSC ISSUED: Director of Yangon Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Ye Tun Oo and party supervised issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to the people at Koenawin Ward of Immigration and National Registration Department on 24 March. Staff Officer of Township INRD and staff issue the cards to eligible citizens.

MYANMA ALIN

Strong winds destroy houses, buildings in Myogyi of W yangtan Township

YANGON, 13 April—
The strong winds broke nine-elbow Taunggulu Htaungyipye Pagoda in the compound of Myogyi Monastery in Myogyi Village of Ywangan Township in Shan State.

In the event, the umbrella of the pagoda fell down to the ground. About 60 corrugated iron sheets were blown in the wind and some structure destroyed at Myogyi Basic Education High School. A public rest house in the compound of the monastery collapsed in the strong winds. Some houses of the local people were destroyed in the hit of strong winds.

Transportation cut a short period on Myogyi-Hanmyintmo Road due to fallen trees on it.

A total of 66 households suffered from strong winds in Myogyi Village, and they lost property worth K 4.5 million. The local authorities provided necessary assistance to the strong winds victims. There was no casualty of human and animal in the accident, it was learnt.—Kyemon

Tomb of Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo maintained

MANDALAY, 13 April—
The tombs of Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo and his relatives of King Mindon Period, located at 135 between 87th and 88th streets and 89th and 87th streets in Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay are in damage. Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department (Mandalay Branch) of the Ministry of Culture cleared bushes at the grave yard and is carrying out sanitation for maintenance of the tombs as of 21 March.

The tombs of the mayor and his relatives are located on 25 feet wide plot, said an older person of 80 years old.

A tomb of his son U Khin Maung Dwe is located west of Shwehlanbo and another tomb without stone inscription, north of Shwehlanbo.

The stone inscription bearing Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo who was born on 1205 ME, aged 70, passed away on 10th Waxing of Taban, 1274 ME was put on the tomb of Shwehlanbo. Likewise, a stone inscription was put on the tomb of his son U Khin Maung Dwe.

Photo shows tomb of Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo at 135 between 87th and 18th streets and 88th and 87th streets in Aungmyethazan Township.

Insein Township WJA donates books to Kyaiiko, Mawlamyine Township WJAs

YANGON, 13 April—
An excursion group comprising 160 members led by Vice-Chairman of Insein Township Writers and Journalists Association U Bo Kyi donated books to Kyaiiko Township.

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Iran offers Asia oil buyers easier credit terms

SINGAPORE, 13 April— Iran is offering Asian oil buyers, including India, easier credit terms to lure more business and counteract tough Western sanctions aimed at restricting the OPEC member’s exports, the Financial Times reported on Thursday.

Teheran has been offering a handful of potential customers in Asia 180 days of free credit, the newspaper said quoting unnamed industry officials.

Despite its generous terms, Iran was struggling to find customers, the FT said.

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India to allow investment from Pakistan, open border post

NEW DELHI, 13 April—India has decided to allow foreign direct investment from Pakistan, India’s trade minister said on Friday, hours before the two countries were due to open a trading post on the border in the latest sign of thawing economic ties.

Liberalizing heavily restricted trade and investment flows is now the driver of peace efforts, and likely to conclude the negotiation on India most favoured nation status, which Pakistan, India’s trade minister said on Friday, hours before the two countries were due to open a trading post on the border in the latest sign of thawing economic ties.

Under current rules, Pakistani citizens are not allowed to work in India.

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At least 70,000 newly-born babies HIV positive in Nigeria

ABUJA, 13 April—The Nigerian government on Thursday said about 70,000 newborn babies in the West African country are HIV positive.

Director-General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) John Idoko disclosed this in Nigeria’s southwestern state of Ogun during a call on State Governor Ibikunle Amosun in Abeokuta, the state capital. Idoko also said HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria were prevalent among Nigerian pregnant women. He stressed that the agency was ready to partner with the state government on preventive policy.

China, Fiji sign economic, technical cooperation deal

SUVA, 13 April—China and Fiji signed three documents here Friday, agreeing on further strengthening economic and technical cooperation.

The documents, which include an economic and technical cooperation agreement and two letters of exchange, were signed between Fiji’s Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming who is leading a delegation on a 4-day visit to Fiji. Under one letter of exchange, China will help Fiji in its development of the Rice Industry Project in Vanua Levu, one of the Fijian Government’s initiatives for the revival of the northern division’s economy. This will result in the visit of a technical team comprising of eight experts from China that will conduct a feasibility study of what is required to keep the industry sustainable.

Serbia finds stolen Cezanne worth $100 million

BELGRADE/ZURICH, 13 April—Police in Serbia have recovered a painting by the French artist Paul Cezanne that was stolen at gunpoint from a Swiss museum four years ago, officials said on Thursday. Cezanne’s Boy in a Red Waistcoat, which media said was worth more than $100 million, was one of four paintings stolen from the E.G. Buehrle Collection in Zurich in 2008 by a trio of masked robbers who burst in just before closing time and told staff to lie on the floor while they took what they wanted.

The heist was one of the largest in the world at the time. Four men were arrested in the capital Belgrade and the southwestern town of Cacak on Wednesday in connection with the theft and the director of the Buehrle collection confirmed the authenticity of the painting, the Zurich state prosecutor’s office said. At a press conference in Belgrade, Miljko Radisavljevic, the special prosecutor for organized crime, said the suspects wanted to sell the painting, found in the door panel of a car, for as little as 3.5 million euros. "They received 2,900,000 euros before the arrest," he said.

An expert for the Zurich state prosecutor’s office said. At a press conference in Belgrade, Miljko Radisavljevic, the special prosecutor for organized crime, said the suspects wanted to sell the painting, found in the door panel of a car, for as little as 3.5 million euros. "They received 2,900,000 euros before the arrest," he said.

UN asks Indonesia to step up effort against malaria

JAKARTA, 13 April—The United Nations asked Indonesia to step up effort in fighting against malaria as part of the Millennium Development Goals, Indonesian deputy minister said here on Friday.

The request was delivered by the UN special envoy for fighting malaria Princess Astrid during meeting with Indonesian first lady Ani Bambang Yudhoyono at the State Palace here. The UN expected Indonesia to raise the issue of malaria at the international forum such as ASEAN and G-20, Deputy Health Minister Ali Gulton said.

“Princess Astrid wants Indonesia to bring the issue of malaria at the international forum and make it one of the main agenda,” he told a Press conference after the meeting.

Indonesia has taken part in the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, as the country applied for the Control of AIDS (NACA) John Idoko disclosed this in Nigeria’s southwestern state of Ogun during a call on State Governor Ibikunle Amosun in Abeokuta, the state capital. Idoko also said HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria were prevalent among Nigerian pregnant women. He stressed that the agency was ready to partner with the state government on preventive policy.

Models present cars of Das Auto during the second Giugiaro international auto exposition, a once-extravaganza, a once-

People look at products in the Sony store on 10 April, 2012 in New York City. Sony on Thursday said it would cut about 10,000 jobs in the fiscal year ending in March 2013 as the struggling electronics and entertainment giant moves to stem massive losses. —INTERNET

7.1-magnitude quake hits Gulf of California

BEIJING, 13 April— An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale jolted Gulf of California at 07:51 GMT on Thursday, the US-Geological Survey, monitored here, said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 33.00 km, was initially determined to be at 28.7710 degrees north latitude and 113.0100 degrees west longitude.

Police probe anti-terror hotline

LONDON, 13 April— British police said their communications remained secure Thursday after hackers linked to the anti-terrorism group Anonymous hacked an anti-terrorism hotline and illegally recorded a security unit’s officers discussing their actions.

An activist group called Team Poison jammed the line with repeated calls — so-called “phone bombing” — preventing those with genuine concerns from getting through in the latest attack on a high-profile institution.

Recordings of the hoax calls to the hotline, which is manned by specially trained police, and of other officers apparently from London police’s Counter Terrorism Command (CTC) discussing the attack have been put on the YouTube website.

London’s Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) said it had conducted an investigation and was confident its internal communication system had not been penetrated. “We have throughout the day researched the allegation that the Anti-Terrorist Hotline had been ‘hacked’ and activists’ claims that they were able to listen unrestricted to confidential communications,” said Alisa Beaton, director of information for the London police force.

“We are confident the MPS communications systems have not been breached and remain as they always have been, secure.”

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Models present cars of Das Auto during the second Giugiaro international auto exposition, a once-extravaganza, a once-
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1216)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1216) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/37316/376797

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/37316/376797

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**BBC and Coca-Cola would organizations were less innovation and competition users - one that promotes smooth experience for web activities.**

**Washington, 13 April—** Organizations wishing to buy web addresses ending in their brand names have until the end of Thursday to submit applications. For example, drinks giant Pepsi can apply for pepsi, gatorade or tropicana as an alternative to existing suffixes such as .org or .com. Parties are able to request up to 50 web address endings. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers plans to publish application details on 30 April.

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**Internet**

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**Collapse of Antarctic ice sheet linked to ancient ‘mega flood’**

**Canberra, 13 April—** Dramatic warming at the end of the last ice age produced an intense rise in sea level and a massive ice sheet collapse in the Antarctic. The sea level rise is known as Melt-Water Pulse 1A, and new research indicates it increased sea level by about 45 feet (14 metres) sometime between 14,650 and 14,310 years ago, during the same time as a period of rapid climate change known as the Bolling warming. Understanding the impacts of earlier warming and sea level rise is important for predicting the effects of future warming. **It is vital that we look into Earth’s geological past to understand rare but high-impact events, such as the collapse of giant ice sheets that occurred 14,600 years ago,”** study researcher Alex Thomas of Oxford University said in a statement. **“Our work gives a window onto an extreme event in which deglaciation coincided with a dramatic and rapid rise in global sea levels—an ancient ‘mega flood.’”**

During this period, “sea level rose more than ten times more quickly than it is rising now,” Thomas said, with the rising seas resulting from melting ice sheets that had formed during the ice age. **“This is an excellent test bed for climate models. If they can reproduce this extraordinary event, it will improve confidence that they can also predict future change accurately.”**

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**Chavez says he’s ‘doing very well’ after treatment**

**Caracas, 13 April—** Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez returned to Venezuela on Wednesday, saying he’s “doing very well” following cancer treatment in Cuba. After flying in to Simon Bolivar International Airport, Chavez met with seven. The president says he’s being recovered well since surgery in February that removed a second tumor from his pelvic region.

He has regularly traveled to and from Cuba for cancer treatment since last June, when he says an initial surgery removed his first tumor, which was the size of a baseball. Chavez has not identified the type of cancer or the precise location where the two tumors were.

The 57-year-old leader has vowed to overcome cancer and win re-election on 7 Oct. His political foes argue Chavez is not fit to continue governing the country because his health is failing—an allegation the president vehemently denies.

“We have less than six months before 7 Oct, let’s get ready,” said Chavez, urging government supporters to gear up for the crucial vote. **Internet**

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**Hours spent driving children about, AA survey suggests**

“Mum and dad’s taxi is still very much in operation.” He added: “Besides taking up a lot of time, parents driving habits can influence in what their children will become later in life so it’s important they set a good example on these journeys. “Hopefully many of those hours spent driving the children to school will be avoided when they are old enough to drive themselves and keen to get behind the wheel - even if it’s just pipping to the supermarket to help their mum out.”

**AA Driving School said that with the average number of children per family at 1.9 it meant many parents were spending nearly double the times given in the survey driving their children.**

The AA/Populus research also found that just under a fifth (19%) of parents said they spent at least £1,200 a year per child on hobbies and activities, including the transport costs of getting them there.

Parents in London appeared to fork out the most, with one in 20 spending more than £200 per child every month on such activities. **AA Driving School said that was equal to parents spending £43,200 for each offsprings through their childhood up to the age of 18.**

**Internet**

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**Collapse of Antarctic ice sheet linked to ancient ‘mega flood’**

**Canberra, 13 April—** Dramatic warming at the end of the last ice age produced an intense rise in sea level and a massive ice sheet collapse in the Antarctic. The sea level rise is known as Melt-Water Pulse 1A, and new research indicates it increased sea level by about 45 feet (14 metres) sometime between 14,650 and 14,310 years ago, during the same time as a period of rapid climate change known as the Bolling warming. Understanding the impacts of earlier warming and sea level rise is important for predicting the effects of future warming. **It is vital that we look into Earth’s geological past to understand rare but high-impact events, such as the collapse of giant ice sheets that occurred 14,600 years ago,”** study researcher Alex Thomas of Oxford University said in a statement. **“Our work gives a window onto an extreme event in which deglaciation coincided with a dramatic and rapid rise in global sea levels—an ancient ‘mega flood.’”**

During this period, “sea level rose more than ten times more quickly than it is rising now,” Thomas said, with the rising seas resulting from melting ice sheets that had formed during the ice age. **“This is an excellent test bed for climate models. If they can reproduce this extraordinary event, it will improve confidence that they can also predict future change accurately.”**

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**Shaken by shooting, Chinese still seek US colleges**

**Beijing, 13 April—** Chinese parents say the shooting deaths of two Chinese students near the University of Southern California is a concern but will not deter them from seeking an American education for their children.

Chinese students and education consultants say the shootings in Los Angeles are isolated. One parent, Wu Qing, said Thursday that although she is worried her 18-year-old son will continue his studies at the California Institute of Technology in nearby Pasadena. According to US-based Institute of International Education, China sent nearly 160,000 students to US colleges last year, more than any other country. USC has about 2,500 Chinese students.

It’s within a mile of neighbourhoods that have been plagued with crime.
**Performers dance to a different tune**

When Alison Friedman first came to China in 2002 on a Fullbright fellowship to research modern dance, local residents had little idea what it was. “Most people would say, ‘Oh, you mean hip-hop?’ or ‘You mean disco in a bar?’” recalled Friedman, who later founded Ping Pang Productions to facilitate cross-cultural exchange projects between Chinese and international performers.

“Now when I say research modern dance, they’ll say, ‘Oh, like Pina Bausch?’ (the late German dancer, choreographer and director)” or, “Oh, like the Beijing Modern Dance Company?” The difference is amazing. People are more aware of what it is, and there are definitely bigger and bigger audiences.”

The dance scene in China can be traced back to the latter stages of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) when Yu Ronglou, the daughter of the then ambassador to France, studied with Isadora Duncan in Paris. Yu later returned to China and performed this type of new dance for Empress Dowager Cixi.

**Measurements in bakeries ‘take the cake’**

When it comes to pricing their delicacies by size, Chinese bakeries could be said to customise their products, labelled with their diameter measured in cun, which most people think is a Chinese unit of 3.33 centimetres. However, to bakers it stands for the much smaller “inch” 0.29 cun.

If it’s the Chinese measure, the cake is a tasty 870 sq cm. “It’s confusing. Why can’t they write down the exact size, rather than simply listing the diameter here?” said Zhang Huijie, a white-collar worker in Shanghai, with a sweet tooth. “In fact, it’s difficult for ordinary people to calculate the size of the cake using either of the measurement units.”

**China censors Winslet’s breasts**

Beijing, 13 April — China’s State Administration of Radio, Film and Television says it cut a shot of a topless Kate Winslet from the 3D version of “Titanic.”

The 1997 epic starring Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio as star-crossed lovers was re-released worldwide in time for the 110th anniversary of the historic sinking of the luxury liner during its maiden voyage. A memorable scene in which DiCaprio’s soprano Jack sings Winslet’s broad-shouldered girl Rose naked has also been edited in China so Winslet is only seen from the neck up.

“Considering the vivid 3D effects, we fear that viewers may reach out for hands for a touch and interrupt other people’s viewing,” the administration said in a statement. “We’ve decided to cut off the nudity scenes.”

E! News said one Chinese man complained about the alteration in an online film forum. “I’ve been waiting almost 15 years, and not for the 3D gigs,” he wrote.

**Madonna album suffers record sales slump in US**

London, 13 April — Madonna’s MDNA has suffered the biggest second-week drop in sales for a number one album in US chart history. The record debuted at the top of the Billboard chart last week, but has now fallen to number eight. That reflects a drop in sales from 350,000 units on release to 48,000 copies in week two — a decline of 86.7%.

Lady Gaga previously held the title. Her 2011 album Born This Way fell from 1.1 million copies in its first week to 174,000 in week two, an 84% decline. MDNA was knocked off the top spot this week in the US and in the UK by Beyoncé’s album. The book will be released on 27 September.”

**JWK Rowling writes seven Harry Potter books.— Internet**

LONDON, 13 April — Author J.K. Rowling has announced her new novel will be called The Casual Vacancy. The Harry Potter writer revealed in February that she was working on the book, and said it would be “very different” from her previous material. The book will be published worldwide in hardback, ebook and as an audio download and is due out on September 27.

The freedom to explore new territory is a gift that Harry’s success has brought me,” Rowling said.

The story is centred on the duties of Fairwater, whose unexpected passing shocks the local villagers of Pagford. Publishers Little, Brown said: “This is India’s most recognisable and popular celebrities.— Internet JWK Rowling wrote seven Harry Potter books.— Internet

**China’s richest young person is under 30**

London, 13 April — Daniel Radcliffe is still the richest actor under 30. His latest film Reckless, which went straight in at number one in both countries, the rapper features twice on Madonna’s album, along with the singer’s 15-year-old daughter, Lourdes, who sings on track Superstar.

Neilson Soundscan, which compiles the chart, predicted MDNA’s large fall, as its first-week sales included albums given away with concert tickets, as well as pre-orders from iTunes. Also, without a current hit single or any airplay, the album was not on the charts.

*The Woman In Black* has been such a huge thing of my life. “I’ve been writing hard ever since I finished writing [Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows], so I’ve got a lot of stuff. And I suppose it’s a question of deciding which one comes out first!”

More than 450 million copies of seven Potter books have been sold worldwide. The novels, about a boy wizard who survives the attack that kills his parents, became a worldwide phenomenon and were turned into blockbuster films starring Daniel Radcliffe. When the final installment of the book series went on sale in 2007, thousands of copies sold out in minutes.— Internet

**Dancers shape up at a theater in Beijing.**

**News Album**

**Madonna starts a 90-date world tour in May with a concert in Israel.**

**Research suggests that in a crisis women are only first into lifeboats when the rule is backed up with force.**

**Women first rule ‘ignored in ship disasters’**

The belief that women and children are first to be saved when ships sink is largely a myth, a new study suggests. Analysis of survivors from 18 maritime disasters shows women “have a distinct survival disadvantage”, say researchers at Uppsala University in Sweden.

The report says captains and crew have a significantly higher survival rate. The Titanic disaster 100 years ago this week was a rare exception because the captain of the ship, who disobeyed, concluded.

The “women and children first” rule is now seen as the normal way to behave in emergencies. The authors of the report, economists Mikael Elinder and Oscar Ericsson, say the captain has the power to enforce the rule. But they say their findings show that behaviour in real-life or-death situations is best captured by the expression “every man for himself!”.

The study covered sea disasters spanning three centuries, involving more than 15,000 people. The authors say data from 16 ships had never been analysed in this way before.
Football Extravaganza starts 20 Seasons celebrations

Star-studded charity dinner in London marks Premier League’s 20th anniversary

LONDON, 13 April — Celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the Premier League began in London on Wednesday at the 17th Football Extravaganza. The annual dinner, which first took place in 1996, sees the football and music industries come together to raise money for Nordoff Robbins, a national organisation which helps ill and vulnerable people of all ages across the UK. And this year, more than £350,000 was raised for the charity through table sales, auctions and raffles.

Star-studded Nordoff Robbins uses music as a form of therapy and, through the Football Extravaganza, the Premier League has already helped them raise £6m for their important work. The star-studded event at the Grosvenor House Hotel also doubled up as a celebration of 20 Seasons of the Premier League. The gala was attended by a host of current and former players and managers who were able to look back on the best of all things Premier League since its first season in 1992-93. Seated at the top table were heroes from the last two decades, including Frank Lampard, Gary Neville, Steve Bruce, Alan Shearer, Brad Friedel, Graeme Souness, Colin Hendry, Brian Deane and Sol Campbell.

500 Club
There was a very big 500 theme for the evening, with accolades going to the 500 players who are members of the exclusive ‘Premier League 500 Club’ (those who have played 500 matches in the competition). Sol Campbell, David James, Emilie Heskey and Frank Lampard all received awards, Ryan Giggs recorded a special message as he was in action for Manchester United, while Gary Speed’s widow Louise collected his honour. An exclusive Premier League book was also put up for auction. The black leather-bound book contains 20 images of football icons from the last 20 years chosen by a panel from the Premier League. Each of the icons signs the book and more than half wrote personal messages. Also part of the auction was a Fiat 500 signed on the dashboard by Jose Mourinho, which sold for £16,000. The former Chelsea manager had paid £18,000 for the car at last year’s Football Extravaganza and donated it back. The Premier League’s 20 Seasons Awards, which will feature the greatest players, managers and moments in Premier League history, will be launched on Tuesday 17th April.

Liverpool’s third choice keeper Jones set for Wigan

Liverpool’s third-choice goalkeeper Brad Jones looks set to start Saturday’s FA Cup semi-final against city rivals Everton after the club’s appeal against second choice Doni’s suspension was rejected. Jones, whose young son Laca died of leukaemia late last year, was thrust into the spotlight at Blackburn Rovers in midweek when Doni was dismissed for bringing down Junior Hoilett when Doni was dismissed for bringing down Junior Hoilett. The Australia international’s first job was to save a penalty. “We know that to do what he’s been through, but so soon after a personal tragedy. “I’m sure he’ll enjoy his first bit of action on Tuesday night. There’s no point in saving a penalty.” Dalglish said of Jones, who was signed from Middlesbrough in August 2010 but has rarely featured. “That was the first one she lost. I haven’t felt like I’ve been there in the last year,” Dalglish said in a statement.

One of the events of the weekend of the 23rd anniversary of the Premier League saw the Parmentiers make their way to the Parc des Princes. The home star’s second round of the 2010 semi-final triumph over Pauline Parmentier in the match which saw her move closer to a third title in a row. Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark returns the ball to Pauline Parmentier of France during their WTA Danish Open women’s tennis match in Farum, north of Copenhagen. Wozniacki won her 12th match in 12 career outings at the Copenhagen Open on Thursday as she moved closer to a third title with a 6-2, 6-2 second round rout of Parmentier. — Reuters

Three share lead at PGA Harbour Town

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, 13 April — Chad Campbell got out to a hot start on route to a four-under 67 at the RBC Heritage, good enough for a share of the first-round lead alongside Vaughn Taylor and Matt Every.

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark returns the ball to Pauline Parmentier of France during their WTA Danish Open women’s tennis match in Farum, north of Copenhagen. Wozniacki won her 12th match in 12 career outings at the Copenhagen Open on Thursday as she moved closer to a third title with a 6-2, 6-2 second round rout of Parmentier. — Reuters

Wozniacki makes it perfect twelve in Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, 13 April — Top seed Caroline Wozniacki won 12 matches in 12 career outings at the Copenhagen Open on Thursday as she moved closer to a third title with a 6-2, 6-2 second round rout of Parmentier. — Reuters

Luke Donald of England puts for birdie on the third hole during the first round of the RBC Heritage presented by Boeing at Harbour Town Golf Links, on 12 April, in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.— Reuters

Banned Ivanovic to miss Chelsea’s FA Cup semi-final

Wigan Athletic at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, the FA said in a statement.

Defender Neven Subotic (right) and Bayern Munich’s Arjen Robben react after Robben missed the penalty kick during the German first division Bundesligafussball match. — Reuters

Liverpool’s goalkeeping coach Brad Jones.

Liverpool’s goalkeeping coach Brad Jones.

Liverpool’s goalkeeping coach Brad Jones.
Shi’ite pilgrims killed in Iraq ambushes

Baghdad, 13 April—Armed men killed seven Shi’ite pilgrims in ambushes on Friday, police and hospital sources said, in the latest attacks to highlight underlying sectarian and ethnic tensions in Iraq.

Political tensions in the country have been high since US troops withdrew in December, when Shi’ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s government moved against two top Sunni officials — seeking the arrest of Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi and the removal of Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq.

The crisis sparked protests in Sunni strongholds and raised fears of a return to the sectarian slaughter that engulfed Iraq a few years ago.

On Friday, two cars blocked a bus carrying pilgrims from Baghdad to a key Shi’ite shrine in the north, mainly Sunni, city of Samarra. Some seven gunmen opened fire, killing five and wounding six of them in the attack at around 5am (0206GMT) near Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of the capital, a local police source said.

The bombing of the golden-domed Askari shrine in Samarra in 2006 was a catalyst in igniting two years of sectarian violence that drove Iraq to the brink of civil war.

A second incident occurred at 7.30am in the southern outskirts of Baghdad when gunmen killed two Shi’ite pilgrims on route to the holy Shi’ite city of Kerbala in Iraq’s south. Six others were wounded, police and hospital sources said.

Environmental conservation talked in Lashio Township

Lashio, 13 April—The talks on environmental conservation and protection of wildlife was organized by Forest Department in Pushtat Village-tract of Lashio Township on 29 March morning.

Indian helicopter makes emergency landing on rooftop

Bangalore, 13 April — A helicopter has made an emergency landing on the roof of a building in a busy residential area of the Indian City of Bangalore.

Reports say the helicopter was on a routine training flight when its engine failed, forcing the aircraft down.

The five-storey building was evacuated with no injuries reported and both the pilot and co-pilot are safe, an official said.

No clear space on the ground to land, the pilots opted to land on the roof of the Maitree Apartments building, Hal chief test pilot Wing Commander Unni Pillai told the TV channel Times Now.

The pilots have been taken to a hospital for a check-up.

“Because of his size, this will be a fight at eye level and he will have taken some confidence after winning all of the fights since we last met,” said Klitschko. This will be the first time Klitschko has fought in Switzerland and the last time the Ukrainian climbed in the ring when he enjoyed the 50th KO of his career with a technical knock-out of France’s Jean-Marc Mormeck in March.

Defending his IBF belt, the fight will see Klitschko put his WBA, WBO and IBO titles on the line. At six foot five inches, Thompson is just an inch shorter than Klitschko.

Klitschko to defend titles against Thompson

WASHINGTON, 13 April — World heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko will face Tony “The Tiger” Thompson of the US during their IBF heavyweight title bout in July, 2008 in Hamburg.—INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 14th April, 2012
British Prime Minister
Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron
arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 April—
A goodwill delegation led by British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron, arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by special flight, at 11:45 am today.

They were welcomed there by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, departmental heads and British Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Andrew Richard Heyn.

The delegation led by British Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for Universities and Science Hon. Mr David Willets and high-ranking officials and entrepreneurs.—MNA

Y W Unna Maung Lwin welcomes British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

Nay Pyi Taw in festive mood, people celebrate water festival in Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan for 2012

Pagodas and monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw have been thronged with devotees Practising meditation and doing meritorious deeds as from yesterday when Maha Thingyan water festival started.

Water throwing pandals along the Bogysoke Road, Nay Pyi Taw-Lewe Road, Yangon-Mandalay Road in Nay Pyi Taw and in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkun were packed with people splashing with water on revellers.

Similarly, Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri Township and Pobbathiri Township were in festive mood as the people were celebrating the water festival splashing revellers with water while wellwishers donated charity food to visitors from four directions.

At water throwing pandals on Yaza Thingaha Road in Nay Pyi Taw, revellers celebrated the new year water festival being accompanied on the music.

Yaza Thingaha Road was thronged with revellers soaked in water while they were walking along the road and on their cars and motorbikes today.

The third new year celebration in Nay Pyi Taw is more festive than the previous years. The water throwing pandals along the road were packed with revellers as artistes and dancers entertained them with songs and dances.

Golden Guest Hotel and Shwe Than Lwin Company also donated charity food to guests and revellers at their pandals.

In the afternoon, the revellers visited Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden, Safari Park and Zoological Garden here for recreation.

At Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Central Pandal for Maha Thingyan, choral dancers from ministries and companies performed dances while vocalists and film stars entertained the revellers with songs.—MNA

Shwe Than Lwin Company Family’s Pandal packing with people Akya day of Maha Thingyan.

The Thingyan Days I Would Always Remember

A visitor visits the Indian Garden at the Floriade 2012 in Venlo, the Netherlands, on 12 April, 2012.

Satellite mapping pinpoints penguin population

Several Premier League legends attended Wednesday’s Football Extravaganza in London.

Terry and Cole fit for Chelsea against Spurs

London, 13 April—Skipper John Terry and left back Ashley Cole are both available for Chelsea’s FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley this weekend after recovering from injuries, stand-in manager Roberto Di Matteo said on Friday.

Terry has been nursing a rib injury while Cole missed Chelsea’s last two games with an ankle problem.

With regular right back Branislav Ivanovic suspended for the clash against Tottenham, the availability of the experienced Terry and Cole is a major boost for the Di Matteo who faces three crucial games in eight days. “Ashley trained today and is fine, he’s available,” Di Matteo told reporters at Chelsea’s training ground.

“It’s a good time to have him back. John Terry came through training fine too.” Midfielder Oriol Romeu is ruled out through illness.

Chelsea face a pivotal period in their season with the Wembley clash against Tottenham on Sunday being followed by the first leg of their Champions League semi-final at home to Barcelona on Wednesday. The Blues then face third-placed Arsenal in the Premier League next Saturday as they try and stay in the hunt for a top-four finish in the league. Despite Barcelona looming on the horizon, Di Matteo’s sole focus is on Tottenham as Chelsea try and regain the FA Cup they won for the sixth time in 2009-10 by beating Portsmouth who surprisingly beat Spurs in the semi-final.—Reuters

Arsenal’s Theo Walcott (L) crosses the ball past Chelsea’s Ashley Cole during their FA Cup semi-final match at Wembley Stadium on 18 April, 2009.

Reuters