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.

(See page 8)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, 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 artistes on the stage of the pandal.

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)
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 14 April, 2012

Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival

Now we all are 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 floats 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 major 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 artists 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 Dharmic absolution from monks.

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

**BREMEN, 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 Offerbacher 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.

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**Japan reactor restart debate swells beyond nuclear frontline**

**OITA, 13 April**—Japan’s nuclear power industry had never spent much time or money winning over the hearts and minds of people like Susumu Takahashi, a fisherman angling for small sweetfish from the serene shores of Lake Biwa, a world away from any nuclear reactor.

But with the industry paralyzed after last year’s Fukushima nuclear disaster, and badly in need of public trust to get moving again, it may wish it had done to the trouble.

“If Lake Biwa gets contaminated, then that would be irreversible,” said Takahashi, a doctor who regularly casts his line into the mountain-ringed lake in western Shiga prefecture, which contains none of Japan’s 54 nuclear reactors but sits next to Fukui prefecture which hosts 13 of them.

“The lake is in our hands now. But it is also for future generations, and contamination would be passed down for generations.”

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**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 to monitor the sea floor with a pair of underwater robots.

“Shell’s subsurface surveillance today and tomorrow will continue to determine if there is a connection between natural seeps and this orphanz sheen,” the company said. News of the spill, 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 $67.86. The stock closed down less than 1 percent in London after falling as much as 5 percent earlier in the day, temporarily erasing roughly $12 billion in value from Europe’s largest oil company by market capitalisation. —Reuters

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**Indonesia quake a record, risks for Aceh grow**

**SINGAPORE, 13 April**—The powerful undersea earthquake of the Indonesian island of Sumatra this week was once in 2,000 years event, 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 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 killed over 220,000 people in 13 countries around the Indian Ocean.

Sumatra, the westernmost 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, called the Sunda megathrust, stress builds up when 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 Eurasian plate suddenly jolts upward, triggering an earthquake. —Reuters

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**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 a 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 slayings were first reported.

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

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**Chinese state councilor meets N Ireland leaders to boost cultural, educational cooperation**

**BELFAST, 13 April**—Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong met Northern Ireland’s First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness in Belfast on 12 April, 2012.—Xinhua

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**Kansai Electric Power Co’s Ohi nuclear power plant No 3 (R) and N04 reactors are seen in Ohi, Fukui prefecture, in this 26 January, 2012 file photo.—Reuters**

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**Japanese nuclear disaster, 2011**

Mohammad, base commanding officer, reported any suspicious activity to the coast guard after an exercise in the air. He believes they were dealing with a domestic or a 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,” said Captain Jesse Moore, base commander. He said in a statement soon after the slayings were first reported.

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Eventually enough stress builds up that the edge of Eurasian plate suddenly jolts upward, triggering an earthquake. —Reuters
Contact lost with flagship Envisat spacecraft

The last data transmitted from Envisat was a radar image of Spain’s Canary Islands.—INTERNET

Paris, 13 April — Contact has been lost with the European Space Agency’s (ESA) flagship Earth observation mission — Envisat. Controllers stopped receiving data from the eight-tonne spacecraft on Sunday, and have not as yet been able to re-establish communications.

Envisat was launched in 2002 and is already operating five years beyond its planned mission lifetime. ESA was expecting to turn off the spacecraft in 2014, once the first in a series of follow-ons has 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.

Bird-like dinosaur found with eggs in Patagonia

said they expected the eggs, which were fertilised and well-developed, to help explain how birds evolved from dinosaurs.

Some of the eggs were probably still inside the mother dinosaur when she died — other eggs were nearby.

The new species, Bonapartenykus ultimus, is a member of the small, long-legged, fast-moving Alvarezsaurid dinosaur family, they report in Cretaceous Research. Although the link to modern-day birds has been disputed in the past, palaeontologist Fernande Novas said the current batch of eggs resembled the skeleton of the Nandu, a modern flightless bird of the Rhea genus, native to Patagonia.—INTERNET

Microsoft wins its biggest cloud computing client

LONDON, 13 April — 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.—REUTERS

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, saying 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.”

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 new information is 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 12 July deadline. The commission says that the average person living within the 27-nation bloc has at least two devices connected to the net at present — typically a computer and smartphone. It expects the figure to rise to seven by 2015, with a total of 25 billion wirelessly connected to the net worldwide. By the end of the decade it says that could climb to 50 billion.

“If a university teacher cancels a morning lecture because they are sick, students’ alarm clocks and coffee machines could automatically be reset,” it gives as an example. “If an elderly person forgets to take an essential pill, a warning message could be sent to a close family member.”

"People need to know and trust that this sort of change is one they are comfortable with, and it’s important to have that conversation now,” a spokesman told the BBC.—INTERNET

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 imagery 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 heart of over the past three years. The good news was that the team found the Antarctic emperor penguin population numbered about 95,000, 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 Wuehneke, as 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).—REUTERS

Emperor penguins are seen in Dumont d’Urville, Antarctica on 10 April, 2012.—INTERNET

The spread of the net could let alarm clocks change their settings if an appointment is cancelled.—INTERNET

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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 the freedoms to 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.
More unmarried couples having babies

WASHINGTON, 13 April — More unmarried couples who live with their partners are having babies than ever before, a new government report shows. Twenty-seven percent of births between 2006 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 also are 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 would expect 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 60 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 Mulin, a reproductive endocrinologist and infertility expert at Human Re-production at North Shore-LIJ Health System in Manhasset, NY.

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

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 going under the knife for breast enlargement or nose operations should be off the cards for minors, a draft position paper states.

The move was generally welcomed by medical associations. “We support a ban on cosmetic surgery on children and young people,” vice president of the German Medical Association, Martina Wenker, 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.

“The danger is that surgeons aware of the full implication of the decision” want the proposed ban, revealed earlier by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, to be wrapped into new patient-protection legislation. This is due for discussion at a Friday gathering of party leaders.

Chinese 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 8.5%. China’s economy was hit by a drop in demand in key markets including the US and Europe. At the same time, domestic demand has proved tough to stimulate. “We are slightly disappointed,” said Kevin Liao of Daiwa Capital Markets. “They’re main downside was with exports and some tertums of consumption,” said Kevin Liao of Daiwa Capital Markets.

On Thursday, the World Bank 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 for 2012 to 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 only 3.6% from a year earlier, lower than the government’s target of 4% for the year.

“At 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.

“Even with a proper explanation, it is not guaranteed that the young person is aware of the full implication of the decision” to undergo plastic surgery, the lawmakers argue in their paper. “Behind the bid are officials dealing with health matters from Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union. They want the proposed ban, revealed earlier by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, to be wrapped into new patient-protection legislation. This is due for discussion at a Friday gathering of party leaders.

Kraft discontinues Athens Greek yogurt

New York, 13 April — Kraft Foods Inc is discontinuing its Athens line of Greek yogurt, the company said on Thursday, exiting the fast-growing US Greek yogurt market. Athens, which also makes feta cheese, hummus and pita chips, discontinued the yogurt in March. “Although we had a loyal following of Athens Greek yogurt fans, we have decided to refocus our efforts on innovating new products for the Athens 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 yogurts, have soared in the United States in the last few years. The market is dominated by privately held Chobani, whose Chobani brand has about a 60 percent share. Danone is second with 17 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 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 .01 percent below the previous 30-year mortgage rate of 3.87 percent set 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 bond 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 in six years in February 2009, the overall economy added 120,000 new jobs in March, which was lower than the market consensus forecast,” said Nothaft. “On a more positive note, the Federal Reserve Board reported hiring was steady, or showed a modest increase, across many of its Districts in its 11th April Beige Book of regional economic conditions.” For the first time in three weeks, the Mortgage Bankers Association saw a 2.4 percent drop in 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 sluggish 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 the most permits to construct homes in more than three years,” according to the AP.
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.

Celebrations of local people in Kalay at entertainment pandal on Thingyan Day.

News photos depicting celebrations of Myanmar people far and wide the country on Maha Thingyan Akya Day

Damsels of DaikU perform choral dances at pandal in Merchant Street of DaikU on Thingyan Akya Day.

Tens of thousands of revellers along Pyay Road in Yangon on Thingyan Akya Day.

Shwe Than Lwin Pandal crowded with revellers on Thingyan Akya Day.

Nyaunglebin Township Pandal packed with revellers on Thingyan Akya Day.
Students rehearse entertainment at Mdy Mayor’s Pandal

Maha Thingyan Festival opened in Dalla

**YANGON, 13 April—**The opening ceremony of Yangon South District’s Dalla Township Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME was held at the entertainment pandal at Dalla Jetty on 12 April evening. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Tun Tun Win, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Kyaw Win, Township Education Officer Officer U Than Sein, Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Tin Oo formally opened water throwing the pandal.

After that, a total of 14 chorale dancing troops performed dancing entertainment with the opening song “Mantuung-yikho” —Than Htay (Dalla)

School girls participate in rehearsal dancing for opening of Mandalay Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal in front of Mandalay City Development Committee.

**DISTRICT NEWS**
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

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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 Yagon Region Development Affairs Minister U Hla Myint, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and responsible personnel of the British Embassy in Yangon.

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Kachin State Maha Thingyan Festival opened

NAV PIT 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 Myitkyina yesterday evening. Members of regional level organizations formally opened the festival.

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Sagaing Region’s Thingyan Festival opened

NAV PIT 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.

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.

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

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Rakhine State Maha Thingyan Festival opened

NAV PIT 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 opening ceremony at Central Pandal in Sittwe yesterday morning.

The Chief Minister, State Social Affairs Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, State Electricity and Industry Minister U Tha Lu Che, Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Kyaw Min 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

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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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Thingyan choral dancers seen at Max Myanmar Group of Companies family water throwing pandal on Thingyan Akya Day.—MNA
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham,…

(from page 1)

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

After enjoying entertainments of film artists 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 artists 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 Nay Aung, Academy Ye Aung, Academy Zin presented May Than Nu and Pa Pa Win Khin in addition to vocalists L Waing, Academy Min Maw Kun, Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Academy artistes Academy Nay Aung, Academy Ye Aung, Academy Zin presented entertainments and songs to the audiences.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents cash award to dancers of Max Myanmar Group of Companies’ water throwing pandal.

Magway Region Chief Minister attends Maha Thingyan Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—The opening ceremony of the year of 1373 ME Maha Thingyan Festival of Magway Region was held at central pandal on Strand Road of Magway at 6 pm yesterday, attended by Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and his wife Daw San San Myint, the region ministers, members of region level organization, Magway district and township departmental personnel, choral troupes, decorated floats and Thingyan lovers.

At the ceremony, the region chief minister extended greetings saying that happy thingyan for all and everyone may full of enjoyment in this occasion and formally opened the ceremony.

Next the competitive choral troupes were sprinkled scented water with Eugenia branches. And then Yein troupes and decorated floats entertained the Thingyan goers with the songs—Nyo Mya and Shwemanmarlar.

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

NAY PYITAW, 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 Myisith Road in Khamti on 10 April morning.

He met township level departmental personnel and townswelders 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.

District General Administration Department. Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Hla Tun also 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 Sassan Beikman in Maha Sigomgyi Pagoda in Sagaiing.

Thingyan enthusiasts enjoy Thingyan festival on Maha Thingyan Akya Day

NAYPYITAW, 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 water festival today Maha Thingyan Akya Day as well.

Yein troupes and Ainkha Wuttyi 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 Kyaw Khin and party paid a close attention to process of offering free snacks taken place at No. 9 Ward in Kamutkyu Township 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

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

Ayeyawady Region Maha Thingyan Central Pandal opened

NAYPYITAW, 13 April—The opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Central Pandal was held in Pathein yesterday evening.

Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, members of region level organizations and officials attended the opening ceremony. The Region Chief Minister formally opened the Central Pandal.

Choral dance troupes performed dances and the Region Chief Minister and party poured water on those present at the ceremony.—MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 14 April, 2012
**Safety for danger of fire, electricity checked in Okkan Township**

**YANGON, 13 April—**

Safety for danger of fire and electricity was undertaken at schools, markets and wards in Okkan of Taikkyi 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 Okkan Township Development Affairs Committee inspected electric meter boxes, wire systems, switches and control board, sanitation of garbage bins, and safety use of electricity at the shops at Okkan Myoma Market of Taikkyi Township.

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

**Tomb of Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehanlanbo maintained**

**MANDALAY, 13 April—**

The tombs of Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehanlanbo and his relatives of King Mindon Anawrahta Shwehlanbo and Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo, were destroyed due to strong winds before 9 April. The mayor’s relatives and his friends are working on the tomb of King Mindon Anawrahta Shwehlanbo and Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo.

They offered 3600 oil lights and gold foils to the Kyaikkhami Yayle Pagoda. In the evening, they offered 2700 oil lights at Dhammayon in Kyaikto Township. At the Dhammayon, they donated 500 books donated by wellwishers to Librarian U Tun Myint.

**Insein Township WJA donates books to Kyaikto, Mawlamyine Township WJAs**

**YANGON, 13 April—**

An Insein WJA donates books to Kaikto Township on 25 March. They then presented commemorative pennants to Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehanlanbo.

**Strong winds destroy houses, buildings in Myogyi of Wyangon Township**

**YANGON, 13 April—**

The strong winds blew nine elbow Taungpulu Hutaungpyae Pagoda in the compound of Myogyi Monastery in Myogyi Village of Wyangon Township in ShwepyseikU Pagoda in the precinct of ShwepyseikU Pagoda in Yangon City.

The wellwishers to Librarian U Tun Myint discussed future tasks for durability of the library.

**In the evening, they offered oil lights and gold foils to the pagoda.**

On 27 April, they visited Kyaukkhami Yayle Pagoda. In the evening, they offered oil lights and gold foils to the pagoda.
7.1-magnitude quake hits Gulf of California

LONDON, 13 April — British police said their communications remained secure on Thursday after hackers linked to the anti-establishment group Anonymous blocked 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 hours called 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 said Saturday a Sangam activist who 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 MP Communication systems have not been breached and remain as they always have been, secure.”

Police probe hacking of anti-terror hotline

India offers Asian 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. Exports of Iranian credit amounted to a discount of roughly $1.25 to $1.5 a barrel. Despite its generous terms, Iran was struggling to find new customers, the FT said.

The United States and European Union have tightened sanctions on Iran’s oil trade as they seek to reduce the flow of petrodollars and to force Teheran to halt a nuclear program the West suspects is intended to produce weapons.

Saudi Arabia and other leading Middle East oil producers extend 30 days of credit, and Teheran in the past has allowed importers such as China to pay in 60 to 90 days. Iran’s offer of longer payment periods amounts to an official discount of about 7.5 percent per $118 barrel, the newspaper said.

Iran offers Asia oil buyers easier credit terms

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 33.0 km, was initially determined to be at 29.78 degrees north latitude and 113.0100 degrees west longitude.

The Indian Garden at the Floriade 2012 exhibition area of about 80,000 square metres.— Xinhua

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 between the neighbours, whose fragile ties were shattered in 2008.

More than 600 Pakistani businesses are in New Delhi this week at a trade fair to promote their products to the Indian market. In the face of some domestic opposition, the government of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari last November vowed to grant India most favoured nation status, which ends restrictions that require most products to move via a third country.

The move was hailed by India and the two countries are now focused on resolving economic issues before moving on to more intractable problems such as the disputed region of Kashmir.

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

OGUN, 13 April — The Nigerian government on Thursday said about 70,000 newly-born 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 Ogun State government on preventive policy.

Models present cars of Das Auto during the second Guangzhou international auto show in Guanyin capital of southwest China’s Guangzhou Province, on 12 April. More than 70 automobile brands from home and abroad displayed their products in the exhibition area of about 80,000 square metres.— Xinhua

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.— Xinhua

Serbia finds stolen Cezanne worth $100 million

BELGRADE/ZURICH, 13 April — Police in Serbia have recovered a painting by the French artist Paul Cezanne 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 recovered not long after the arrest,” he said.

Belgian police called lawyer Vincent Van Gogh, thought to have been painted in 1888, depicts a boy in traditional Italian dress wearing a red waistcoat, thought to have been painted in 1888, depicts a boy in traditional Italian dress wearing a red waistcoat, although it had been displayed in the United States of America.

UN asks Indonesia to step up fight 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 Gunton said Wednesday: “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 several programme on fighting malaria. — Xinhua

Computer analysis of 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

At least 70,000 newly-born babies HIV positive in Nigeria
LONDON, 13 April — A third of parents spend between 10 and 49 hours a month ferreting their children about. A survey suggests the 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 time given in the survey driving their children.

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 offspring through their childhood up to the age of 18.

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 been recovering 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 his 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.

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

CANEVESA, 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,” said 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.’”

Shaken by shooting, Chinese still seek US colleges

BELING, 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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PHILIP VOY NO (013)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHILIP VOY NO (013) 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 bylaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV 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 bylaws 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.
Customs officials had denied he was stopped because he was Indian, and was released after India's embassy in the US intervened.

Later, he told the students of the report, economists Mikael Elinder and Oscar Ericsson, the captain has the power to enforce the rule. But they say their findings show that behaviour in real life-or-death situations is better 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.

Research suggests that in a crisis women are only first called upon when there is a disadvantage”, say researchers at Uppsala University in Sweden. The report says captains and crew have a significantly higher survival rate.

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 was on board, who disobeys, they conclude.

But 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 captains have the power to enforce the rule. But they say their findings show that behaviour in real life-or-death situations is better 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.

Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan ‘detained’ in US

NEW YORK, 13 April — Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan says he was detained by US authorities for 90 minutes at White Plains airport, which serves New York. The actor, who arrived on a private plane, was on the way to NY University for a function. It is not clear why Khan was detained at the airport. Khan was earlier detained for two hours in 2009 at Newark airport and was released after India’s embassy in the US intervened.

The actor had then said he was stopped because he had a Muslim name. US Customs officials had denied that Khan had been detained, saying he was questioned. The Press Trust of India news agency quoted sources as saying that Khan was stopped and questioned for over two hours before being cleared by immigration officials on Thursday. He was freed after Yale University officials contacted homeland security and customs officials, the BBC’s Salim Ravers New York said.

“Khan was very very upset over the episode,” the CNN-IBN channel said, quoting unnamed sources. Later, he told the students of Yale University that he had been stopped and questioned at the airport. But, he made light of the incident and joked about it “Whenever I want to stay at the airport, I should come to the US. They [officials] ask me why my height was, and I lied. Then they asked me what was my colour. I lied and said I was white,” he said. Khan has appeared in more than 70 films and is considered one of the most recognised and celebrated Bollywood stars.

Madonna says album suffered record sales slump in US

LONDON, 13 April — Madonna’s MDNA has suffered the biggest second-week drop in 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 359,000 copies in the first week 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 1,186,000 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 Taylor Swift’s Red. Madonna, however, remains on the top 10 albums in the Billboard charts.

ADLATE TOPS YOUNG MUSICIANS RICH LIST WITH £20 MILLION

LONDON, 13 April — Adele has become the richest young musician in the UK, with an estimated fortune of £20m. Last year’s Sunday Times Rich List estimated her to be worth £16m but massive sales of her album 21 have helped her gain another £1m in the past 12 months. Adele has beaten other young stars such as JLS and Jessie J to the top spot. Cheryl Cole is second equal on the list with £18m.

The Woman In Black has helped him to amass a total of £5m, up from £4m last year. His Harry Potter co-stars also feature on the list, with Rupert Grint thought to be worth £2m.

Emma Watson features on both the lists for actors and models and has a fortune of £26m. Robert Pattinson has also made the biggest increase in his fortune. His worth has gone from £32m in 2011 to £52m. This year, Adele features on both lists with a fortune of £20m. Adele has become the richest young musician in the UK, with an estimated fortune of £20 million.

Adila tops young musicians rich list with £20 million

Adila tops young musicians rich list with £20 million

China censors Winlet’s best 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 its 100th anniversary of the historic sinking of the luxury liner during its maiden voyage. A memorable scene in which DiCaprio’s spoor artist Jack sketches Winslet’s nude body has also been edited in China so Winslet is only seen from the neck up.

Speaking to China Radio International, a company official said the cuts were for “considering the vivid 3D effects, we fear that viewers may rush out their hands for a touch and thus interrupt other people’s viewing.”

The administration made a statement in a statement. “We’ve decided to cut off the nudity scenes. E! News said one Chinese magazine complained about the alteration in an online film forum. “I’ve been waiting almost 15 years, and not for the 3D sequels,” he wrote. — Internet

News Album

Dancers shape up at a theater in Beijing.
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 all 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 raise them £6m for their work.

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

Liverpool’s third choice keeper Jones set for England

LIVERPOOL, 13 April — 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 last year, was thrust into the spotlight at Blackburn Rovers in midweek when Doni was dismissed for a red card after a fumble, his sending off against Newcastle following an incident in the 2-0 League game has already helped him to get his chance.

“He has done and I’m sure he’ll be the third-choice keeper. That’s important work. The star-studded event at the Grove Hotel in Hertfordshire 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, Collin Hendry, Bryan Deane and Sol Campbell.

500 Club

There was also a 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, Emile 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 25 images of football icons from the last 20 years chosen by a panel from 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 be for the best players, managers and moments in Premier League history, will be launched on Saturday 17th April.

OPEN ON THURSDAY

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. — Internet

The 500 theme to launch on Tuesday 17th April... — Internet

Robben red-faced by key penalty miss at Dortmund

MUNICH, 13 April — Bayern Munich’s Arjen Robben has admitted he was embarrassed by his crucial penalty miss in his team’s 1-0 defeat at German league leaders Dortmund which looks to have handed their rivals the title. Robben, who onlywatched in horror as his 86th-minute penalty attempt was saved by Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller on second-placed Bayern trailing at Borussia’s Signal Iduna Park stadium on Wednesday. The defeat leaves Munich six points behind Dortmund with four games left and Robben’s misses Dortmund are on course for a second consecutive title. “That is very bitter and very disappointing,” said Robben. “In the last three years I have converted 10/11 penalties in succession. This was the first one I have missed and, yes, that was really embarrassing.”

Three share lead at PGA Harbour Town

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, 13 April — Chad Campbell got off to a hot start in round to route a four-under 67 at the RBC Heritage, good enough for a share of the first-round lead with two other players. Taylor and Knowlton joined him atop the leaderboard with solid finishes — Knost nailing birdies at three of his last five holes while Taylor holing out from the fairway for an eagle at his final hole, the par-four ninth. US veteran Jim Furyk, the 2009 champion, was a stroke back on 68 along with fellow English, South Korean Charlie Wi and Matt Every.

Luke Donald of England putts 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

Wozniacki makes it perfect twelve in Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, 13 April — Top seed Caroline 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. — Internet

Dortmund defender Neven Subotic (right) and Bayern Munich’s Arjen Robben react after Robben missed the penalty kick during the German first division Bundesliga football match. — Internet

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

LONDON, 13 April — Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic will miss Sunday’s FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley after being handed a three-match ban by the Football Association (FA). The Serbian international was found guilty of violent conduct on Thursday following an incident in the 2-1 Premier League victory over Birmingham on Tuesday night. Mr. Carr was handed a three-match ban by the FA after his challenge on match officials and he was charged retrospectively.

Ivanovic appealed against the charge but it was dismissed by the FA. The defender will also miss Premier League games against Arsenal and Queens Park Rangers but is available for both legs of the Champions League semi-final against Barcelona. — Reuters

Luke Donald of England putts 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

Chelseas Branislav Ivanovic. six at the sixth. Campbell’s share of the first-round lead was his first since he led the first round of the Masters in 2009. His only top 10 finish last year was at the British Open. “I haven’t felt like I’ve been that far off,” Campbell said. “But the results haven’t been good at all. I feel like I’ve been working on the right things and heading in the right direction.”

Chelsea’s Branislav Ivanovic.
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 Shi’ite shrine in the northern, 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.

Indian helicopter makes emergency landing on rooftop

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

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

The five-storey building was evacuated without injuries reported and both the pilot and co-pilot are safe, an official said.

With its rotor damaged, officials are looking at how to move the helicopter.

The helicopter belongs to the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and was flying out of a nearby airport. Residents said they heard a loud noise when the helicopter began its descent and everyone gathered on rooftops to watch. Without a 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.

“The helicopter has sustained minor damages to its rotor blades,” a police official said.

Officials say the helicopter will either have to be dismantled or airlifted. The aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, has reportedly ordered an investigation and a team is on its way to the site.

Klitschko to defend titles against Thompson

WASHINGTON, 13 April—World heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko will face Tony "The Tiger" Thompson of the United States in a mandatory defence of his IBF title in Berlin, Switzerland, on July 7, it was announced on Thursday.

"As a southpaw, Thompson is hard to box against," said the 36-year-old Klitschko. “He is good technically and he has already given me one of the hardest fights of my career." Thompson, 40, suffered the last defeat of his career with an 11th round knock-out at the hands of Klitschko in July 2008. The American has lost only two of his 38 fights, but with a dearth of good heavyweights to challenge him, Klitschko has now been the undisputed champion for the last four years. As well as defending his IBF belt, the fight will see Klitschko put his WBA, WBO and IBO titles in the line. At six feet five inches, Thompson is just an inch shorter than Klitschko.

"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 was when he enjoyed the 50th KO of his career with a technical knock-out of France’s Jean-Marc Mormeck in March.

Vladimir Klitschko (left) of Ukraine fights Tony Thompson of the US during their WBO heavyweight title bout in July, 2008 in Hamburg.— INTERNET
Nay Pyi Taw, 13 April— 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 Bogyoke Road, Nay Pyi Taw-Lewe Road, Yangon-Mandalay Road in Nay Pyi Taw and in Nay Pyi Taw Tawkon 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.