President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win enjoy Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win (on Maha Thingyan Akyat Day) this morning enjoyed Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival for 1373 ME on the lawns of the Presidential Palace.

On arrival at the Maha Thingyan water throwing pandal on the lawns of the Presidential Palace at 9.15 am, the President and wife were garlanded by Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and staff families of the President Office in line with the fine Myanmar traditions.

Next, the President and wife cordially greeted film artists and vocalists. Together with Vice-Presidents Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, and Dr Sai Maung Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyin, Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, deputy ministers and families, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win enjoyed singing and dancing entertainments.

At the water throwing pandal, choral dancers of Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture and the Camp Commandant’s Office of the Ministry of Defence, vocalists and renowned film stars presented Thingyan songs and dances to the accompaniment of the Myanmar Athan modern music band.

After that, the President and wife together with the vice-presidents, members and families joyfully participated in water throwing festival of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan.

(See page 8)
Towards a new great year

Thingyan, Myanmar Traditional New Year Festival, reaches its tail end. The last year went by in flash and a new year begins. The preceding year was a momentous one which witnessed plenty of noticeable changes in various fields.

During the previous year, the elected civilian government instituted a series of dramatic reforms and won domestic support and international recognition which was made tangible by a number of high-profile visits from the western countries once hostile to Myanmar. The government, marking its first anniversary of taking office, presented the people the free and fair by-elections as a gift. Some sanctions against her were lifted with some to be ended soon.

MPs debated public affairs and passed new legislations in three parliamentary sessions, thoroughly acting as a check and balance on the cabinet.

Peace talks with national race armed groups during the last year were said to be successful, entering into agreements at each level.

Signs indicated Myanmar’s economy would soon boom, inviting more foreign direct investment. Lawmakers are also working to pass new legislations to lure more foreign investors. Fixed for decades, foreign currency exchange became float in Myanmar as well.

Various restrictions on taxation, media and many other sectors were relaxed. Myanmar has had more and more transparency since the previous year, boosting chances for realization of “good governance and clean government”.

To look back on the very recent year, it was a banner year. As we take a step towards a new year, we have to review our wish lists for the past year—how many yeses we could tip—and renew new ones, leaving out the things what we past year—how many yeses we could tip—and renew new ones, leaving out the things what we

We, the editorial board of the New Light of Myanmar, wish you all our subscribers and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar could tick yeses to each and every line on their wish lists for the coming year.

Taninthayi Region Myanma

Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival Central Pandal opens

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—Opening of Taninthayi Region Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival Central Pandal, was held, in the front of Dawei Town Hall on 12 April. Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko extended the greetings. Region Social Affairs Minister U Aung Kyaw Kyaw cut the ribbon to open the pandal. After that, they throw the sacred rice on and chorals dances were performed at the pandal. The Region Chief Minister and party also attended openings of Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan pandals in Thayetchaung Township, Dawei District and in Dawei Station. The following day, the Region Chief Minister and the region ministers enjoyed the performance of chorals dancers at pandals of Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Central Pandal in Dawei, and at Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance and Revenue Pandals. —MNA

Union A & I Minister visits Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing yesterday morning visited Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation and six-acre quality paddy plantation in Taegyigon village in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 45-day thriving Palethwe paddy plantation (50 acres) in Chaing Dekkhinathiri Township and China-Myanmar hybrid paddy seed production at agricultural mechanized farming (100 acres) in Kyarku village in Dekkhinathiri Township.

After that, he also visited thriving paddy plantation in Alyino village in Piyinma Township and 17-day Palethwe hybrid paddy at model agricultural mechanized farming (200 acres) in Yanaungmyin village in Dekkhinathiri Township.

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe inspects Pyidawtha rural housing project

YANGON, 14 April—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing yesterday morning visited Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation in Thaungthu village in Chaung Pyidawtha Township.

He also attended briefing for rural housing project in Pyidawtha village of Khalaakay village tract and heard reports submitted by officials. The Region chief minister gave necessary instructions and then inspected the project.

Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Nyan Tun Do and U Win Swe of Shvetawng Development Co Ltd reported on construction of Kyawdaw Kungyangon-West Bodin road. The project is being implemented with the help of UNHABITAT, ADRA Myanmar and System Engineering Co Ltd. —MNA

Insein Township observes World TB Day 2012

YANGON, 14 April—In line with the motto “Stop TB, In My Life Time”, the World TB Day 2012 was observed at Ayeyawady Hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Insein Township of Yangon North District in Yangon Region on 28 March morning. Deputy Commissioner of Yangon North District General Administration Department made an opening address on the occasion. —Kyemon
China, Russia, India look to positive roles abroad at meeting

MOSCOW, April 14 — The foreign ministers of China, Russia and India agreed to play constructive roles in international and regional affairs, during their 11th trilateral talks here Friday. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the cooperative mechanism of China, Russia and India had strong vitality. The mechanism served as an important platform for the emerging countries to seek peace, cooperation and development and demonstrated their will to promote mutually beneficial cooperation that did not target any third party, Yang said.

China advocated pragmatic cooperation and political dialogue in an equal, mutually beneficial way, in bid to promote the trilateral and multilateral cooperation among the emerging countries, he said. During the meeting, the three countries agreed the world was undergoing complicated and profound changes and becoming irreversibly multi-polar, with emerging and developing countries playing bigger roles than ever before. China, Russia and India, all emerging countries and members of the UN Security Council, were responsible for safeguarding peace, development and stability in the world, the three said.

Meanwhile, they also agreed to enhance their cooperation in the UN, the G20 group, BRICS and other multilateral mechanisms, in order to facilitate regional prosperity and stability and global economic recovery and development.

The countries would also promote multilateralism, democratization of international relations and peaceful and common prosperity in the world, they said. — Xinhua

Tornado hits Oklahoma, more expected this weekend

CHICAGO, April 14 — Forecasters are warning of a major tornado outbreak in Kansas and Oklahoma this weekend, and Oklahoma got a first taste of it on Friday as a twister touched down near the National Weather Service office in Norman. A tornado was seen near the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman just after 4 pm local time that knocked over a building and caused minor damage, said Rick Smith, a National Weather Service meteorologist. The Norman tornado ripped roofs from buildings, downed power lines and uprooted trees across Norman, a town of 110,000 people 20 miles south of Oklahoma City, television images showed. City Hall was among the structures damaged, said Keli Cain, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. An operator at the University of Oklahoma said people had been warned to get to a basement or low floor. "I was watching this tornado on TV, which was neat until it realized it was right here in Norman," said the operator, who did not give a name.

"Atmospheric conditions for tornados are similar to those that caused severe storms in parts of the Midwest and Southeast in early March that killed more than 50 people," said Steve Weiss, science support branch chief for the National Storm Prediction Center. "We see potentially some... very damaging tornadoes," Weiss said. Oklahoma is already having severe weather Friday, and a twister was also reported in Copperston in the state’s southwest corner. — Reuters

First Confucius Institute in N Ireland opens its doors

BELFAST, 14 April — A new chapter in China-Northern Ireland ties has been opened with the launching of Northern Ireland’s first Confucius Institute on Friday. The Confucius Institute at the University of Ulster (CIU) opened its doors Friday with an opening ceremony in Jordanstown, near Belfast. China’s State Councillor Liu Yandong, Northern Ireland’s First Minister Peter Robinson, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ulster Richard Barnett attended the ceremony.

Liu said the high-level people-to-people exchange mechanism between China and Britain is the first of its kind between China and a European Union country. The mechanism would help the two countries further understand and learn from each other, and deepen friendship between the two peoples. Along with mutual political trust and economic and trade cooperation, the high-level people-to-people exchange mechanism forms one of the three pillars of the China-Britain relationship, she said. Speaking to teachers and students of the University of Ulster, Liu said educational exchange plays an important role in people-to-people exchanges.

China has made opening-up and cooperation parts of its national education plan, and is ready to work with high-level foreign universities to cultivate talents who have an international vision, she said. She hoped Chinese and British universities would deepen cooperation in the exchange of teachers and students, research and development platforms, and sharing teaching ideas and other resources. — Xinhua

Slogan of London Olympic Games to be announced next week

LONDON, April 14 — The long-awaited slogan of the London Olympics will be announced next week when it’s 100 days to go until the opening of the Games, LOCOG said here on Friday. A source from the LOCOG told Xinhua, "I can confirm to you that the slogan will be announced at a press conference next week."

She refused to disclose the reason why LOCOG reveals the slogan so late. The slogan of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games — “One world, One dream”, was unveiled in June 2005, over three years before the opening of the Games. — Xinhua

Powers seek to ease nuclear deadlock with Iran

ISTANBUL, April 14 — Iran and world powers have a rare chance on Saturday to haul a downward diplomatic spiral over Tehran’s nuclear programme and ease fears of a new Middle East war when they resume stalled talks, but diplomats warn against expecting quick results. The negotiations in Istanbul, the first between Iran and the six powers in 15 months, are unlikely to yield any major breakthrough but Western diplomats hope at last to see readiness from Tehran to start discussing issues of substance.

That, they say, would mark a big change in Iran’s attitude from the last meeting when it refused even to talk about its nuclear programme and could be enough for scheduling a second round of talks next month, perhaps in Baghdad. Such an outcome could, at least for the time being, dampen persistent speculation that Israel might launch military strikes on Iranian nuclear sites to prevent its enemy from obtaining atomic arms. Both sides say they are ready at the meeting, which is due to start at around 10 am (0700 GMT), to work towards resolving the deepening dispute over the nuclear programme which Iran says has purely peaceful purposes.

“For their own reasons, each side wants to give diplomacy a chance at this point, to start a process rather than to force a quick fix,” said analyst Michael Adler at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars. Iran must show in Istanbul that it is willing to enter “serious engagement,” one senior diplomat said, suggesting Saturday’s discussions were unlikely to go into detailed issues. “My tip is to set your sights low,” the diplomat said. “It is not part of our game plan for tomorrow to lay out a long list of specific demands and conditions. They know what we think about all these things.” — Reuters

Mexican drug cartel leader sent to prison in Colorado

DENVER, April 14 — The leader of a Mexican drug cartel was sentenced on Friday to more than 22 years in prison by a federal judge in Colorado, who said the kingpin’s criminal enterprise sold $1 billion worth of cocaine in eight US states. Oscar Arriola, 43, was “a clear and present danger to this country and its citizens,” US District Judge Robert Blackburn said.

The cartel distributed cocaine in 2002 and 2003 in New York, Illinois, Georgia and five other states from a storage centre at a Colorado ranch, before an anonymous tip led to an investigation, the US Drug Enforcement said. Arriola and his brother, Miguel, were among 29 people indicted in 2003 in federal court in Denver. Oscar Arriola was arrested in Mexico in 2006 and extradited to the United States in 2010. Miguel Arriola was sentenced to 20 years in prison on drug trafficking charges involving the Arriola cartel’s smuggling of tons of cocaine from Mexico to the United States.

Oscar Arriola pleaded guilty last week to drug trafficking and money laundering crimes. He was one of the top 35 drug traffickers in the world in 2002, Drug Enforcement agent and lead investigator Paul Roach said.

A prison term of 22½ years was justified, the judge said, because help Arriola provided to authorities while in US custody was “more than offset by the lives ruined.” Arriola apologized to the judge for the harm his cartel inflicted on US residents. — Reuters

Lightning strike is seen near the water tower of Bennet, Nebraska on a farm.

A lightning strike is seen near the water tower of Bennet, Nebraska on a farm. — Reuters

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Experts sleuth out what killed Puget Sound orca

SAN DIEGO, April 16—Two months after a 3-year-old endangered orca washed ashore bloodied and bruised in Washington state, the cause of her death remains a mystery. Marine experts believe the female orca whale, known as L-112, died of massive blunt force trauma, but they’re still examining evidence and waiting for tests of tissue samples to determine what caused her death. Some orca experts, however, suspect the injuries are linked to an underwater explosion or military training activity at sea.

Lieutenant Commander Skip Morin of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration last week began looking into the orca’s death and are seeking information from the US Navy and other sources about their activities as part of its investigation, said NOAA spokesman Brian Gorman. “So far, there haven’t been any red flags,” he said. The Navy says it wasn’t conducting activity off the coast in the weeks before 11 Feb, when the orca’s 12-foot long carcass was discovered on Long Beach on Washington’s southern coast.

The young female orca was a member of the “L” pod, one of three groups of federally-protected killer whales that frequent Puget Sound, whose population now stands at 86. Conservations groups say her death represents a major reproductive loss for the marine mammals, and combined with recent naval sonar use in the region by the US and Canada, underscores the need for stricter protections for the marine mammals.—Internet

In this 11 Feb, 2012 file photo provided by the Northwest Northwest, a team works on a dead whale after it washed ashore near Long Beach, Wash.—INTERNET

What would happen If you fell into a Black Hole?

WASHINGTON, April 14—Black holes are without question some of the strangest places in the universe. So massive that they hideously deform space and time, so dense that their centres are called “points at infinity,” and pitch-black because the stuff of which they’re made — nothing can escape them, it isn’t surprising that so many people wonder what it would be like to visit one. It’s not exactly a restive vacation spot, as it turns out. If you were to take a step into a black hole, your body would most closely resemble “toothpaste being extruded out of the tube,” said Charles Liu, an astrophysicist who works at the American Museum of Natural History’s Hayden Planetarium.

Liu said that when an object crosses a black hole’s “event horizon” — its outer boundary, or point of no return — the same physics that causes Earth’s ocean tides begins to take effect. Gravity’s strength decreases with distance, so the moon pulls on the side of the Earth closer to it a bit more vigorously than the side farther from it, and as a result, Earth elongates slightly in the direction of the moon. The land is sturdy, so it doesn’t move much, but the water on Earth’s surface is fluid, so it flows along the elongated axis.—Internet

Scientists beam up a real “Star Trek” tricorder

LOUISIANA, 14 April — Starships, warp speed, transporters, phasers. Think “Star Trek” technology is only stuff of fiction? Think again. Dr Peter Jansen, a PhD graduate of the Cognitive Science Laboratory at McMeaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, has developed a scientific measurement device based on the tricorders used by Captain Kirk, Spock, Dr McCoy and other space adventurers on the classic TV series that has spawned numerous spin-offs in more than 45 year, is pictured in this undated publicity photograph provided to Reuters on 13 April, 2012.—INTERNET

In this file photo provided by the Seaside Aquarium, a team works on a dead whale after it washed ashore near Long Beach, Wash.—INTERNET

The coelacanth, a “living fossil” fish that predates the dinosaurs, is some 17 million years older than previously thought, scientists have found. The earliest known skull of a coelacanth, unearthed in Yunnan, China, dates the fish in its current shape to about 400 million years ago, according to research by the Chinese Academy of Sciences published on Tuesday in Nature Communications. Coelacanths peaked in abundance about 240 million years ago. They were thought to have died out around 65 million years ago, until one was caught off South Africa in 1938. Closely related to the lungfish, coelacanths can live at depths of between 200 and 1,000 metres (650 and 3,250 feet). Greyish-brown with spots, they can grow up to two metres (6.5 feet) in length and weigh as much as 91 kilo (200 pounds).—Internet

Samsung to showcase flagship OLED HDTV at IFA in August

SEOUL, 14 April — Samsung confirmed Friday that its 55-inch OLED HDTV will be shown at Berlin’s IFA trade show in late August, according to a report from SlashGear. At the event, the manufacturer will announce the TV’s official launch details alongside a new, premium range of HDTVs. Samsung describes the new televisons as “an even more premium” than its OLED models, although that may be in terms of functionality rather than design or display technology. Samsung unveiled its OLED TV at the Consumer Electronics Show in January, however details remain scarce. Both television sets will reportedly support the new version of Samsung AllShare, which will allow users to remotely access any of their Samsung devices located anywhere in the world.—INTERNET

These contact lenses give you superhuman vision

WASHINGTON, April 14 — Contact lens wearers can get a new perspective on their environment with the latest vision technology — contact lenses that let the wearer focus on two fields of view at once. Wearers can keep an eye on a projected image while their surrounding scenery can also be looked at — resulting in superhuman vision.

The human eye on its own can only focus on one distance at a time. The contact lenses, however, will let two images be viewed at the same time. The projected image goes through the retina display, while the background image is still visible. And, while most of the world is fascinated with Google Glasses, the Pentagon is focused on getting a supply of these contacts, called iOptik. It recently ordered a supply from Innovega, the company that makes them. The Pentagon will reportedly use the technology to develop night vision devices, since it can programmatically be used to move light in any direction. In addition to contact lenses, the company also makes glasses with projection images in the lenses, which it showed off at CES 2012. With this technology, the company said, glasses and lens wearers could view content from their mobile devices while still looking at the scenery around them. The technology will be available to the public in 2014; Futurist tech has been used to address a number of health concerns, as well as expand on the human body’s natural capabilities.—INTERNET

In this file photo provided by the Seaside Aquarium, a team works on a dead whale after it washed ashore near Long Beach, Wash.—INTERNET

Los Angeles, 14 April — The coelacanth, a “living fossil” fish that predates the dinosaurs, is some 17 million years older than previously thought, scientists have found. The earliest known skull of a coelacanth, unearthed in Yunnan, China, dates the fish in its current shape to about 400 million years ago, according to research by the Chinese Academy of Sciences published on Tuesday in Nature Communications. Coelacanths peaked in abundance about 240 million years ago. They were thought to have died out around 65 million years ago, until one was caught off South Africa in 1938. Closely related to the lungfish, coelacanths can live at depths of between 200 and 1,000 metres (650 and 3,250 feet). Greyish-brown with spots, they can grow up to two metres (6.5 feet) in length and weigh as much as 91 kilo (200 pounds).—Internet

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Nicotine patch may help prevent smoking relapses

New York, 14 April — Nicotine patches may help smokers recover from any initial setbacks and kick the habit, a new US study suggests. "The clear implication is that you shouldn’t give up, you should stay on the treatment with patch," said School of Medicine and Public Health of the University of Pittsburgh. People who “lapse”, or give in to nicotine cravings when trying to quit, are at high risk of giving up and returning to smoking. But contrary to common perception, they haven’t failed at quitting and may get over initial lapses by continuing to use the patch, Shiffman said. His team’s study, published in the journal Addiction, suggests that the patches may help smoking in the first place, nicotine patches could also help people recover from occasional lapses while trying to quit. Experts say people trying to break the habit manage to do so at first, but are unable to sustain their quit attempt over the long run. “Patch can help overcome these lapses. We’re ignoring what could be a very important way to treat nicotine addiction,” Shiffman told Reuters Health. According to the American Lung Association, more than 443,000 Americans die each year from smoking-related diseases each year. Cigarette smoke contains thousands of chemicals, including tar, carbon mono-oxide, formaldehyde and toxins known to cause cancer. Nicotine patches, usually applied on the arm, reduce withdrawal symptoms such as headache and nervousness in those who give up smoking. They supply lower doses of nicotine than found in most cigarettes — without all the other extra chemicals. Other nicotine replacement therapies (NRTs) include over-the-counter gum and lozenges, prescription nasal sprays and inhalers and non-nicotine prescription drugs. — Reuters

Argentina’s “Miracle Baby” takes turn for the worse

BUFFON AIRS, 14 April — A baby declared stillborn and then later found alive by her parents at a morgue in Argentina was in critical condition on Friday after taking a turn for the worse overnight, a hospital said. Doctors told Analia Bouther that her baby was stillborn when she gave birth in Argentina’s northern Chaco Province at the start of the month. But 12 hours after her birth, when Bouther and her husband pried open the wooden coffin inside the refrigerated morgue to see her last time, they found the baby not only breathing but yawning and stretching her arms. The couple named her Luz Milagros — her middle name meaning miracles in Spanish — because of her unlikely start to life. But the newborn gave her parents another scare late on Thursday when she stopped breathing and had to be revived by doctors. “She’s an extremely premature baby, 13 days old and weighing 708 grams (1 pound, 5 ounces).” She’s in a critical condition with a bit worse than yesterday and at risk of dying,” said Diana Vescio, the infant care at the Perrando Hospital, where the baby was born. “Yesterday she had an episode with a hemorrhage in the lungs, which required us to increase artificial respiration. Her heart and breathing stopped.” — Reuters

Wall Street ends worst two weeks since November

NEW YORK, 14 April — US stocks closed their worst two-week slide since November with a selloff on Friday as disappointing China growth data sparked worries the global recovery was weakening. Concerns that Europe’s debt crisis was flaring up again added to selling pressure. Sectors taking the hardest hit were those most closely linked to growth, including materials, energy and financials. The S&P 500 is now down 3.4 percent from this year’s closing high, after falling 2.7 percent over the past two weeks. “Everyone is looking for global growth, but the slowing in China and the rising yields in Europe are creating questions about how strong we might expect it to be,” said Brad Sorensen, director of market and sector analysis at Charles Schwab in Denver. “That’s leading to a correction here, with financials especially taking a hit.” The S&P financial sector index <.SPX/> shed 2.5 percent in Friday’s session and lost 2.8 percent for the week. Bank of America Corp dropped 5.3 percent to $8.68. Morgan Stanley slipped 5.2 percent to $17.28.

The cost of insuring Spanish debt against default hit 500 basis points for the first time on Friday, a month after the country announced a Euroland-wide fiscal stimulus plan. These levels are about the highest exposure of the country’s banking sector to sovereign debt. Data showed that China’s economy expanded 8.1 percent in the first quarter, a rate that was slower than expected and the country’s weakest in nearly three years. The Dow Jones industrial average <.DJI/> fell 136.99 points, or 1.05 percent, to 12,849.59 at the close. The Standard & Poor’s 500 Index <.SPX/> slid 17.31 points, or 1.25 percent, to 1,370.26. The Nasdaq Composite Index <.IXIC/> dropped 44.22 points, or 1.45 percent, to 3,011.33.

The S&P 500 is still up 4 percent so far this year, but fell 2 percent over the week. The Dow lost 1.6 percent for the week and the Nasdaq dropped 2.2 percent. This week’s losses came on the top of the slide in the previous week, which was cut short a day for the Good Friday holiday. In that week, the Dow dropped 1.1 percent, while the S&P 500 slipped 0.7 percent and the Nasdaq shed 0.4 percent. — Reuters

Lockheed wins $259 million deal for two more US F-35s

WASHINGTON, 14 April — Lockheed Martin won a $259 million contract award to deliver two more F-35 fighter jets to a fifth batch of jets being purchased by the US military, boosting the size of that order to 32 jets, the Pentagon and Lockheed officials said. Lockheed and the Pentagon are still negotiating the terms of a further batch of production contracts for the new radar-evading supersonic fighter jet, after reaching agreement in December on a $4 billion "undistributed contract ceiling."<ref>
Friday’s deal, announced in the Pentagon’s daily digest of major contracts, brings the size of the fifth order in line with the number funded in the Pentagon’s fiscal 2011 budget. That fiscal year ended last September, but the negotiations got off to a late start. It ads one conventional takeoff aircraft to the 21 already planned for the Air Force as part of the fifth batch of jets to be produced. The production contract for the new variant of the F-35 is due to be awarded in the next fiscal year by the Navy. The Marine Corps’ total remains at three for this order. Lockheed is developing and building three variants of the new Joint Strike Fighter for the US military and eight countries that are helping to fund its development. The Pentagon told Congress last month that the projected cost to develop, build and operate and maintain, 2,447 jets for 55 years would be $1.51 trillion, up 8.6 percent from the previous estimate. — Reuters

Turmeric extract may protect heart after surgery

NEW YORK, 14 April — A new study from Thailand suggests that extracts from turmeric spice, known for their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, may help ward off heart attacks in people who’ve had recent bypass surgery. During bypass surgery the heart muscle can be damaged from prolonged lack of blood flow, increasing patients’ risk of heart attack. The new findings suggest that curcumins — the yellow pigment in turmeric — may be able to ease those risks when added to traditional drug treatment. But that conclusion is based on a relatively small group of patients who were not able to be confirmed in larger studies before all bypass surgery at their hospital between 2009 and 2011. Half of those patients were given one gram curcumin capsules to take four times a day, starting three days before their surgery and continuing for five days afterward. The other half took the same number of drug-free placebo capsules. Neither study participants nor their doctors knew which heart patients were getting pills, and surgeries decided on their own what technique they would use for each bypass procedure. The researchers found that during their post-bypass hospital stay, 13 percent of patients who’d been taking curcumin had a heart attack, compared to 30 percent in the placebo group. — Internet

China announces slight easing of currency controls

BEIJING, 14 April — China’s central bank announced Saturday a slight easing of its controversial currency controls. It says it will allow the country’s yuan to rise and fall by a slightly wider margin in daily trading. The change could allow a faster rise for the yuan, which Washington and other trading partners complain is undervalued. But any increase will be too small to satisfy many critics and Beijing already has warned that future gains will be limited. The central bank said it will allow the yuan to fluctuate by up to 1 percent in value against the dollar each day beginning Monday, up from 0.5 percent previously. The bank took the unusual step of issuing a statement in English as well as in Chinese, clearly intending it for foreign audiences. The United States and other governments say an undervalued yuan gives China’s exports an unfair price advantage, swelling its trade surplus and hurting competitors who at a time when other governments are struggling to lower unemployment. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, the country’s top economic official, said in March the currency might already have reached an “equilibrium exchange rate,” suggesting more gains would be limited. Wen said the yuan has already gained 30 percent in value in real terms since 2005. That increase has failed to satisfy critics. — Internet

A man holds a cigarette. Internet
PHOTOS CAPTURING SCENES ON Maha Thingyan Akyat Day

Kaba Aye Pagoda Road crammed full with revellers on Thingyan Akyat Day.

Anawrahta Street teeming with merry-makers on Thingyan Akyat Day.—TIN SOE

Yangon City Electricity Supply Board Pandal packed with revellers.—MNA

Choral dancers perform Thingyan dances beside a decorated float.

“Wc” of Child Star decorated float at Yangon Mayor’s Pandal.

Revellers in Botahtaung Township on Thingyan Akyat Day.—TIN SOE

Photos capturing scenes on Maha Thingyan Akyat Day.
What we call it Thingyan: The big screen

Nathan

“Jaunty tune...drifting in the wind of summer’s Ta’gyi.”

Yes, Thingyan melodies are everywhere. Plenty of lively Thingyan songs offer us a wide range of options. Rock or pop or rap? Any type of Thingyan song is at your fingertips. And there are also plenty of golden oldies still stealing our hearts. They survive not a year or two, but for decades.

The catchy songs were once played by bands of decorated floats in Mandalay Thingyan. We cannot separate Thingyan and Mandalay as it is the cultural capital and the capital of the last monarchy with fragrance of the ancient times still fresh. Also Mandalay Thingyan and the decorated floats are inseparable.

As Thingyan festival was drawing nearer, traditional rivalry grew among Mandalay Thingyan. The film revolves around Mandalay Thingyan and Myoma. Myoma was then a leading float and band. Myoma Nyein is doubtless the top songsmith. Myoma and its mascot Silver Swan passed into history. Fortunately, it is still alive and kicking as its mascot Silver Swan passed into history.

There are many books, fiction or non-fiction, about Mandalay Thingyan. There are also many films depicting Mandalay Thingyan. Needless to say that Myoma is a must in each work. Among films portraying Thingyan, Thingyan Moe (Thingyan Rain) is a blockbuster. Myoma and Myoma Moe were the top songsmiths. Myoma and Myoma Moe can equal the success of the award-winning musical till now. The film follows a young man who plays keyboard for a band of a float with the love of music inherited from his father, a pianist.

Maung Tin Oo, who is well known for a couple of blockbusters and award-winning works and succeeded in bringing Myanmar lifestyles to the silver screen, directed the film. It stars Nay Aung, Khin Than Nu, Zin Waing, May Than Nu, Zaw One and Thida Thein. Thingyan Moe won three Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards for 1985, including the best picture prize.

It tells the romantic love story of a young musician and a girl of the cream-of-the-crop family. Despite the clichéd plot, audience found themselves sticking to each and every scene of the movie. They are attracted by breathtaking scenes of Mandalay, upbeat Thingyan music and stately traditional choral dances. The film itself explores neglected dances. The film itself explores neglected dances. The audience is drawn nearer, traditional rivalry grew again.

In the footsteps of Thingyan Moe while some even destroy the essence of the festival. They show girls running on a beach with swimming suits and playing water in skin tight dresses. They follow boys tailing a girl with one among them begging for her love. They show schoolboys humours. And they call it Thingyan movie.

The filmmakers may possibly argue, “That is what the age is.” Movies have a strong impact on young watchers who later emulate what actors and actresses say, dress and behave in movies. And do films again show how these young people do?

Whatever, I am still hoping to see a new Thingyan film alike depicting how Myanmar Traditional Thingyan is lovely and elegant and conveys the pure essence on the big screen. Even if my wish is not to be fulfilled, Thingyan Moe will still make my Thingyan days in a series of years to come complete.

DVD cover of award-winning musical Thingyan Moe.—INTERNET

Loans disbursed to agriculture and livestock breeding entrepreneurs

Muse, 14 April—Organized by Muse Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Committee of Muse District in Shan State (North), the private microcredit institution, disbursed K8.5 million to 35 entrepreneurs who are engaging in agriculture and livestock breeding farms in the township.—Township IRD

Changes of taxation system clarified in Sagaing Region

SAGAING, 14 April—A related to law, rules, regulations and tax rate to be reformed as of 2012-2013 fiscal year was held at the hall of Sagaing Region Internal Revenue Department at 2 pm on 4 April. Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Than Aye delivered an address.

Head of Sagaing Region Internal Revenue Department U Myo Htar Hnin Paw explained tax reform to be undertaken in 2012-2013 fiscal year in detail. A total of 31 Heads of district and township Internal Revenue Departments in Sagaing Region attended the clarification ceremony.

MLF invites donations of cash, books

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broadening the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation.

Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Thanbyuzay Street in Botataung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.

Kyaukdaga Township Association (Yangon) opens office

YANGON, 14 April—To be able to open the office of Kyaukdaga Township Association (Yangon), an apartment worth K18 million was donated by Col Tin Shein (Rtd)-Daw Aye Mon Shein and family at 140 2A on the first floor on Padamyo Road in Ward 3, Kyaukdaga Township in Yangon Region on 8 April morning.

The opening ceremony of the office was held at the apartment at 10 am.—Myanmar Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 15 April, 2012

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Chin State Chief Minister opens new earth roads, hostels

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April — As part of a programme for rural area development, poverty reduction and socio-economic development in Chin State, an earth road linking Mindat and Aukchaing was commissioned into service and two hostels in Aukchaing Village were opened on 8 April.

The road was formally opened by Chief Minister of Chin State U Hong Ngai and responsible personnel.

Afterwards, two hostels constructed with the contribution of Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun for Basic Education High School in Aukchaing Village was opened by Chin State Social Affairs Minister Dr Ba Maung and Head of Mindat Township Education Officer U Aung Kyaw.

At the meeting with local people at the sports ground in Aukchaing Village, State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai presented K500,000 to responsible personnel to be spent on regional development tasks.

The State Chief Minister also formally opened a road linking Ro, Lonkha and Tiddim on 10 April and presented K200,000 for regional development and K500,000 for the village of Ro to responsible personnel.

He held a meeting with departmental officials at Mindat District General Administration Department on 11 April and inspected No 1 BEHS and staff quarter of Mindat Township People’s Hospital.

The State Chief Minister formally opened the two hostels donated by Union Minister U Win Tun for BEHS (branch) at Rampan Village. He also donated K500,000 for the development of Rampan Village to responsible personnel.—MNA

Mandalay Maha Thingyan continues on a grand scale

Montloneyepaw (rice balls floating over water) and Satudisa.

In the evening, Thingyan dancers, film stars and singers in each and every Thingyan Pandal around moat entertained those Thingyan lovers with modern music and Thingyan music. At night, Mandalay Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal hosted Thingyan decorated floats.

Padonma Soap Family Thingyan Pandal in Mandalay packed with Thingyan revellers.—MNA
Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister partakes in Maha Thingyan

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung together with the Deputy Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw, region ministers, region advocate-general, region auditor-general, secretary of the region government and officials concerned enjoyed entertainment of performers at Pathein University Thingyan water throwing Pandal yesterday morning.

NyaungU District Maha Thingyan Festival Central Pandal opened

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—Opening of NyaungU District Maha Thingyan Festival Central Pandal, took place at pandal on 12 April.

Diplomats of foreign embassies enjoying performance of choral dances of artists at Hotel Golden Land in Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME.

Thingyan festive spirits influence Maha Thingyan Akyat Day

YANGON, 14 April—Thingyan fan-seekers are still partaking today, the Akyat Day of 1373 ME Myanmar Traditional Cultural Thingyan Festival.

Sabagyi Library put into service in Momauk Township

MOMAUK, 14 April—With the aim of broadening horizon of the local people and developing human resources, a ceremony to open Sabagyi Library was held in conjunction with the publications and cash donation at the pavilion near the library in Myohuang Village of Momauk Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State on 28 March.

Kabaaye Pagoda Road being packed with revellers on Akyat Day of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival for 1373 ME.
Outstanding bus workers awarded in Yangon East District

Transportation Yangon Region Minister for Transport delivered an address. Next, the chairman of All Private Bus-line Control Committee made a speech. The chairman of Yangon East District All Private Bus-line Control Committee reported on provision of cash assistance for 2011-2012 fiscal year and awarding work performance. After that, the Region Minister presented cash assistance to workers of respective branches. Officials also gave K 1585000 to prize winning vehicle owners, drivers and bus conductors from 15 bus lines of the district.

Citizenship cards issued in Taikkyi Township

Yangon, 14 April—Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Myint Shwe made citizenship scrutiny cards and household registration in Gyobyu Village-tract in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region. The official team issued citizenship scrutiny cards to 174 eligible people as part of efforts in implementing Moe Pwint-1 Plan. Township Immigration

Women’s vocational training courses conclude in Yinmabin

The advanced tailoring course No 15 and the basic domestic science course No 19 concluded at Women’s Vocational Training School in Yinmabin on 23 March morning. Sagaing Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Kyi Naing made a concluding remark. The region minister then presented a set of sewing machine each to outstanding trainees.

Reforms of tax collection system clarified in Mawlamyine

MYANMA ALIN

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New library building put into service in Kangyidaunt

KANGYIDAUNT, 14 April—A ceremony to open Village-tract Administrative Office and Lin Yaung Chi Library was held in front of the building in Nanwin Gayat Village-tract in Kangyidaunt Township of Pathein District on 8 April.

At first, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Myo Hsaung, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Aung Kyaing and townelder U Nyein Aye cut the ribbon to open the buildings.

The books and citzizenship cards issued in Taikkyi Township

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Communal ordination, novitiation held

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 14 April—Organized by Phayagyi Monastery Mahasi Meditation Centre of Mawlamyinegyun, the 35th Maha Saripathana 7-day meditation camp was held in conjunction with the communal ordination and novitiation ceremony at the center in Mawlamyinegyun on 12 afternoon.

At first, Township Administrator U Htay Maung, Chairman of the Monastery Board of Trustees Dr Ha Hlan and Chairman of Hitakari Trustee Dr Hla Han and Chairman of Hitakari

CASH DONATED: In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of graduation ceremony, officers of 4th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy donated K 1 million to the fund for patients at No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed) in Pyin Oo Lwin recently. Commandant of the hospital Brig Gen Soe Win accepts cash donation.

PRIZES AWARDED: The 9th Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival and fragrance grinding contest, organized by Rakhine Literature and Culture Association (Yangon), was held at Theinbyu Sports Ground in Yangon on 11 April. Officials award first prize winning Rakhine women’s team (Myatpan Thazin).

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Japan finds missing asylum seeker boat

JAKARTA, 14 April—Indonesian authorities said they had found a boat reportedly carrying 20 asylum seekers from Australia and that the dozens of asylum seekers it was carrying believed to have fled. Authorities had been searching for the boat since the mostly Afghan asylum seekers on board made a distress call to Australia on Wednesday, saying they were in rough seas and their boat was sinking. Refugee advocates who said 60 asylum seekers were on board alerted Australian authorities, who passed the information to Indonesian officials.

Indonesian authorities said they had located the missing vessel late on Friday on Lombok Island, which lies just east of the popular resort island of Bali, although residents said they spotted the asylum seekers on Wednesday. “People in Lombok informed us that they saw the boat arrive on the shore on Wednesday, and that people came ashore and ran off,” Nanang Sigit, a search and rescue official in West Nusa Tenggara province told AP. “We’re not alerted immediately, so we only found the boat Friday night. We’re now working with police and are conducting a search on the island.”

Japan market watchdog recommends $2.5 million fine for Olympus

TOKYO, 14 April—Japan’s market watchdog on Friday recommended the Financial Services Agency (FSA) fine Olympus Corp $2.5 million for false accounting in one of the country’s biggest corporate scandals.

The recommendation, made by the Securities Exchange and Surveillance Commission (SESC), was expected as part of legal procedures and comes after prosecutors last month charged the company and six executives with breaking the law by inflating the company’s sales and by not disclosing accounting losses.

Japan’s market watchdog was due to make a final decision on imposing the fine on Friday.

Rhino death toll rises to 170 this year in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 14 April—The toll of the killed rhino has increased to 171 in South Africa in 2012, a government department said on Friday. In the midst of the increased anti-poaching effort, the rhino killed in the country so far this year have reached an alarming figure, said Environment Affairs department spokesman Albi Modisa in a statement.

According to the new statistics, the northern province of Limpopo, the eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal and the central province of North West among nine provinces were prime destinations for illegal poachers, with a total of 58 rhinos killed. The Kruger National Park was the main target for the poachers, resulting at a staggering total of 103 rhinos being killed, while the remaining 10 were poached elsewhere in the country, said the spokesman. In 2011, 446 rhinos were killed in South Africa, compared to 333 in 2010. If this trend of the rhino killing continues, the total number of the killed animals this year will be higher than last year, an expert said.

Conservationists warned the rhino in South Africa is facing their worst poaching crisis in decades. There is increased concern at the escalation of poaching in South Africa, and the government is taking measures to protect the endangered rhino.

A joint force of the country’s law enforcement agencies has been built in an effort to tackle the rising killings of the rhinos. Since January, more than 100 suspected poachers have been arrested in South Africa to home to the largest rhino population in the world with about 20,000, nearly 80 percent of the global figure.

German court rules Apple’s email push breaches Motorola patents

MOSCOW, 14 April—Russia will give priority to modernizing its space industry to protect its independence in space exploration, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Thursday. Russia would outline a long-term strategy of cosmodrome building, including modernizing the northern Plesetsk and Kazakhstani-located Balkon cosmodromes, Putin told a conference in Moscow’s Planetarium. “Only the existence of several cosmodromes guarantees Russia’s full independence in space activities and enables us to use space technology efficiently,” he said.

A new cosmodrome is being built at Vostochny Amur region as the main launch center for commercial and international flights. It will eventually include two launch pads, a training centre and oxygen and hydrogen generation plants. “Building Vostochny cosmodrome will boost development of the entire Far East region and attract highly skilled human resources there,” Putin said.

The government allocated 30 billion rubles (1 billion US dollars) for the Vostochny construction out of 150 billion rubles (3 billion dollars) for the entire space sector in 2012, Putin said. —Xinhua

Health ministry releases regulation on serious mental illnesses

BEIJING, 14 April—China’s Ministry of Health on Thursday released a modified regulation on the management of serious mental illnesses. Serious mental illnesses mainly include schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder and mental retardation. The guidelines outlined measures to control their behaviors and could pose threats to individuals and public security, according to the regulation.

The regulation requires community managers and health workers to immediately report the occurrence of having a mental illness to public security departments. Public security personnel should send patients suspected of having a mental illness to designated local mental health institutions for diagnosis and inform the patients’ families within 24 hours.

Those diagnosed with serious mental illnesses will be registered and receive regular, but random visits from qualified psychiatrists to check their mental condition and assess their recovery, said the regulation. According to statistics from the China Disease Prevention and Control Centre, China had more than 16 million patients with serious mental disorders by 2009.

Mental and neurologic diseases consume 20 percent of the nation’s expenditure on diseases. —Xinhua

Apple rejects e-book pricing collusion charge

NEW YORK, 14 April—Apple Inc has rejected the US Justice Department’s allegations that it colluded with publishers over electronic book pricing, calling the charges “simply not true.”

The US government had sued Apple and five publishers, saying they conspired to fix the prices of electronic books. It has reached a settlement with three of the publishers that could lead to cheaper e-books for consumers.

In an email to Reuters, Apple spokesman Tom Neumayr confirmed the company’s position, which earlier appeared in a Wall Street Journal article. “The launch of the iBookstore in 2010 fostered innovation and competition.”

Customers visit the Apple Store in New York City’s Grand Central Station on 25 January, 2012.—REUTERS

Russia to modernize its space industry

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DONG JIANG VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DONG JIANG VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2012 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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (301)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (301) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Brazil alarm over rising obesity rate

Sao Paulo, 14 April — In Brazil, a country known for girls in mini-bikinis and where body-consciousness borders on obsession, nearly half the population is overweight, a study by the Ministry of Health released on Tuesday found. “There is a tendency to become obese, it’s time to reverse the trend to avoid becoming a country like the United States,” said Health Minister Alexandre Padilha. According to the study, the percentage of overweight people increased from 42.7% in 2006 to 48.5% in 2011 while the obesity rate increased from 11.4% to 15.8% in the same period. The highest rates for overweight were found among men 55 years old or 45 years old (63%) and women 45 years old to 54 years old (55.9%). The youngest group in the study were 18-24-year-olds, where 36% of the men and 25% of the women were overweight. “Adopting public policies for children and adolescents is essential to prevent people from becoming obese,” the health minister said.

He said a third of Brazilians consume either fast foods or sugared soft drinks at least five times a week. The study showed nearly 40% of men and 22% of women exercised less than once a week. The study was based on 54,000 interviews of adults across Brazil from January to December 2011. The highest obesity rate was reported in Macapa at 21.4%, followed by Porto Alegre at 19.6%. Sao Paulo reported a 15.5% obesity rate while Rio de Janeiro came in at 15%.

The centre released a call about a threat on board.—INTERNET

Swiss drug maker Roche sees Q1 sales stutter

Grenaa, 14 April — Swiss drugmaker Roche Holding AG reported Thursday that group sales dipped one percent to CHF 12.05 billion (US $12.05 billion) in the first quarter, while hinting that it might still be possible to achieve our targets for the full year. Roche chief executive Severin Schwan said in a statement citing forthcoming new drugs to combat skin cancer and other diseases.

“Sales in the United States grew six percent in the first quarter, led by hepatitis C medicine Pegasis and cancer drug Rituxan — known as MabThera outside the US and Canada. Sales in Western Europe fell four percent partly due to cutbacks in government-funded health programmes,” Roche, which reports earnings only every six months, said group sales are expected to grow at low to mid-single-digit rates for the full year 2012. Addressing the monthslong effort to overtake California-based Illumina, which specializes in gene sequencing to analyze patients’ DNA, the Roche CEO indicated that a higher bid might still be possible. Last month, Roche raised its offer to $51 cash per share from $48.50 per share, said Illumina to be too low.

A wounded Afghan man is carried inside a vehicle at the site of a suicide bombing in Herat Province, west of Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 10 April, 2012. At least 12 people, including two suicide bombers, were killed and 30 others injured Tuesday morning when a suicide car bomb went off in Gazar District of Herat Province, provincial police chief said. —NINA

Man on Honolulu-bound flight from Japan dies

Honolulu, 14 April — Delta Air Lines Inc says a passenger on one of its Honolulu-bound flights from Japan has died. Delta spokeswoman Gina Laughlin says Flight 612 from Nagoya was about two hours from Honolulu when the man began experiencing some kind of medical emergency. She says flight attendants and nurses performed CPR but the passenger was unresponsive.

Paraedics met the flight when it landed Monday morning and took the man to a hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Laughlin says passenger privacy prevents the airline from revealing details about the man. She says given the plane’s location, going to Hawaii was the shortest and only available option.

Three drilled eggshells by 3 inch drills are seen at his home in Venehuka, some 23 kilometers from Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 12 April, 2011. —INTERNET

An Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses a
**Ohio man charged after six puppies found in suitcase**

An Ohio man has been charged with animal abandonment after a litter of six English bulldog puppies was found in a suitcase with a tag bearing his name, according to Humane Society authorities.

Cindy Condit, spokesperson for the Toledo Area Humane Society told Reuters Wednesday that the man, identified as Howard Davis of Toledo, lived only two blocks from where the suitcase was found. The mother of the puppies was found pacing around the suitcase, which attracted the attention of a passerby.

Howard’s name was on the tag of the suitcase and the mother was licensed to him, said Condit.

After the dogs were found, 4 April in Toledo, the case was charged with a second misdemeanor, which carries with it no more than 90 days in jail, according to John Dixon, the Toledo Area Humane Society’s executive director.

Davis told investigators that he had given the dogs to a friend in Michigan and that the suitcase had in fact been stolen earlier. There was no explanation as to how the adopted dogs got back from Michigan in the stolen suitcase.

The puppies, three male and three female, are estimated to be four weeks old, too young to separate from their mother, so they will survive another at least another four weeks in foster care before they are eligible for adoption.

Dixon said the shelter has received an overwhelming number of calls about adopting the puppies but that for now they are “evidence” in the case against Davis.

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**Resident Evil 6 premium edition comes with a leather jacket in Japan**

This video game will cost you $1,300

Special editions of video games have been serious business in Japan for decades, often coming with soundtracks, art books, models, and other collectibles, and sometimes selling for hundreds of dollars. For its latest Resident Evil game, Capcom has put together a “premium edition” costing a whopping $1,300. For that price, you get to keep a game console to play it on, but instead you’ll get... a jacket.

Releasing on 4 October in Japan, the Resident Evil 6 (called Biohazard 6 there) premium edition includes a leather jacket based on the one worn by series protagonist and snazzy dress-up wearer, Leon S. Kennedy. Also included are collectible covers featuring artwork of the game’s three male leads - Leon, Chris, and Jake — plus a fourth “secret” design. The premium edition also includes the game, of course, which can be purchased separately along with a single tablet cover for more serious collectors. Meanwhile, stores in the US will be offering downloadable multiple levels for those who pre-order the game. It’s scheduled for North American release on 2 October for PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360.

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**Spears could get $15M as ‘X Factor’ judge**

Both camps were back and forth on the money but now they have finally come to an agreement on the fee, said one insider with intimate knowledge of the pending deal. “That was the big sticking point and now, thankfully, it’s been sorted. All they need to do now is work out the smaller points. The fact the money is now set, means that there is nothing stopping this from becoming reality.”

Spear’s fiancé, Jason Trawick, is also petitioning to become co-conservator of her estate with her father, will become a producer on the show, a second source said.

“Jason is expected to be there every day Britney is on set. He is rock and will help guide her through the process. He has said on numerous occasions that he won’t let her in the studio.”

Later Wednesday, the second source told E! News that the deal would make Spears the highest paid judge on reality television, eclipsing singer-actress Jennifer Lopez’s $12 million deal with American Idol. Spears is expected to start her new role on the “X Factor” judging panel alongside Simon Cowell, in the middle of May, E! News said.

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**English Bulldog puppies play at the Toledo Area Humane Society in Maumee, Ohio in this 11 April, 2012 handout photograph.**

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**Ohio man charged after six puppies found in suitcase**

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**Spear could get 15M as ‘X Factor’ judge**

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**Singer Marc Anthony has filed for divorce from Lopez**

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**Anthony files for divorce from Lopez**

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**Singer Jennifer Lopez and her husband Marc Anthony.**

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**Girl, 4, has IQ of 159**

International high-IQ society Mensa has said it has accepted a 4-year-old British girl whose IQ is only 1 point less than that of physicist Stephen Hawking. John Stevenage, executive chief of British Mensa, said the organization was proud to welcome Heidi Hankins of Winchester, England, into its ranks after her scores on an IQ test, putting her just 1 point behind fellow Mensa member Hawking’s IQ.

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**War Horse’ tops DVD sales chart**

**Chicago, 14 April—The Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Black Keys, Black Sabbath and Jack White have been booked for this summer’s Lollapalooza festival in Chicago.**

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**Peppers, Black Keys set for Lollapalooza**

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**Flea performs with the Red Hot Chili Peppers in concert, at the BankAtlantic Centre in Sunrise, Florida on 2 April, 2012.**
Ronaldinho and Kaka have a chance to win the World Cup — Brazil. 15 April 2012

MADRID, 14 April — Cristiano Ronaldo feels that Liga leaders Real Madrid are now closing in on the title as they prepare to face struggling Sporting Gijon at the Santiago Bernabeu this weekend.

The Portuguese star scored his seventh hat-trick of the season as Real beat their neighbours Atletico 4-1 on Wednesday to restore their four-point lead at the top of the table.

The pressure had been growing on Jose Mourinho’s team as their lead - which sat at 10 points in mid-March - was whittled down to one in the wake of Barcelona’s 4-4 victory over Getafe on Tuesday.

But, after some tense moments with the score tied at 1-1 at the Vicente Calderon, Ronaldo made the difference before substitute Jose Callejon got the other goal.

“Still there is a little way to go but the league is near now. We were anxious going into the game as we knew that Barca had won but now we are relaxed,” said Ronaldo, who has already equaled his record-breaking tally of 40 league goals, set last season.

That figure leaves him one ahead of Barcelona’s Lionel Messi, although the Argentine has the most in all competitions with 61.

“Losing is not a word in my vocabulary. We knew it would be a difficult game against Atletico and they showed a great attitude in their bid to become champions,” he said.

“Unfortunately, because of what they would not have scored two, added Ronaldo. April is a crucial month for Madrid and will go a long way to deciding their destiny in the title and 11.

Having taken four points from two league games against Valencia and Atletico, they still have a tough Champions League semi-final tie with Bayern Munich to come either side of their trip to the Camp Nou to face Barca in El Clasico.

Forlan determined to prove he fits at Inter Milan

MILAN, 14 April — Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan wants to stay at Inter Milan and prove he belongs at San Siro despite a frustrating first season.

“I want to stay at Inter. You haven’t seen the real Forlan yet,” the 32-year-old told Sky Sports.

“I wasn’t ready to leave Inter like this. I like challenges and I wouldn’t want to leave when the team are not in a good position.”

Inter are currently six points off third place in Serie A, the final qualifying spot for the Champions League, after a disappointing campaign in which Forlan has struggled.

The player of the tournament at the 2010 World Cup, where Uruguay reached the semi-finals, Forlan missed four months through injury and has often been jeered by the Inter fans when he has played.

“I have had difficult moments in my career,” he said.

“I need to work hard to change things.”

Bayern can shock Real, insists Beckenbauer

MUNICH, 14 April — German football legend Franz Beckenbauer says Bayern Munich can beat Real Madrid in Tuesday’s Champions League semi-final first leg, if they learn from their mid-week German league defeat at Borussia Dortmund.

“ sys the hosts should aim for victory at home in Tuesday’s first leg.

“If they produce the same performance they showed in the second half (at Dortmund), then they certainly have a chance to turn over Madrid,” said ex-Bayern president Beckenbauer, who captained and coached West Germany to World Cup titles.

Knot seizes PGA Heritage lead

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, 14 April — Colt Knost of the United States has seized the lead in the Heritage Classic at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. — Internet

Real Madrid now stand between Bayern and a place in the Champions League final at Munich’s Allianz Arena on 19 May and Beckenbauer says the hosts should aim for victory at home in Tuesday’s first leg.

“With the same performance they showed in the second half (at Dortmund), they certainly have a chance to turn over Madrid,” said ex-Bayern president Beckenbauer, who captained and coached West Germany to World Cup titles.

History favours the Bavarians as they have lost 10 of their 18 matches against Bayern and in four previous European Cup semi-finals, the Germans have gone on to reach the final on three occasions.

Defeat in mid-week has left Bayern facing an uphill task in the league, but they remain in contention for two other titles, with a German Cup final against Dortmund coming up on 19 May.

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Measles vaccination given in Nagmon Township

NAGMON, 14 April—The age-wise measles vaccination was launched at the meeting hall of Township General Administration Department in Nagmon of Putao District in Kachin State on 22 March morning.

At first, Township Administrator U Myo Min Aung made a speech.

Township Medical Officer Dr U Kan Kyaw Soe explained matters related to measles vaccination. The plan of age-wise measles vaccination was implemented in Nagmon Township and Pannandin Sub-Township simultaneously.—Health

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR TV

(15-4-2012) (Sunday)

7:00 am  1. Merita Bhavana By Mignon Saydw

7:40 am  2. Nice and Sweet Song

8:20 am  3. Thin Gyan Decades Ago

11:00 am 4. Marital Song

11:30 am 5. How It’s Works

11:50 am 6. Myanmar Movies

2:25 pm  7. Dance Of Thin Gyan Festival

4:05 pm  7. Song Of National Races

8:00 pm  8. Dance Of National Races

4:50 pm  9. Dance Of Thin Gyan Festival

8:00 pm  10. News

11:00 am 11. Dance Of Thin Gyan Festival

11:30 am 12. Myanmar Traditional Medicine (Aloe vera )

11:50 am 13. Myanmar Movie

Feature

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 15th April, 2012

Tevez hat-trick & Aguero double fires visitors to within two points of United in title race

Tevez’s swerving effort beat John Ruddy before he set up Sergio Aguero.

Norwich replied when Andrew Surman blazed in after Joe Hart’s punch.

But Tevez boosted the lead with a header and Aguero’s solo effort added the gloss before Tevez rounded Ruddy and Adam Johnson tapped in.

Carlos Tevez scores his third and Manchester City’s,fifth

Manchester United’s lead to two points at the Premier League summit. United play Aston Villa on Sunday, but they have not given up.

Aguero, who was also a menace, and scored two fine goals, came inches away from matching his countryman when he hit the post late on.

Swansea 3 - 0 Blackburn

Lions, 14 April—Blackburn’s survival hopes took a massive nosedive with a comprehensive defeat at the hands of classsy Swansea.

Gylfi Sigurdsson opened the scoring for the home side, curling in a delightful left-footed effort.

Scott Sinclair pounced on a Scott Dann error to supply Danny Graham who teed up Nathan Dyer for the second.

David Dunn spared chances for Rovers but their fate was sealed when Dann knocked it into his own net after Sigurdsson had struck the post.—Internet

Saturday’s EPL Results

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West Brom 1-0 QPR

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Diplomats participate in Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April—Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival held for third time in Nay Pyi Taw was packed with revellers on Thingyan Akyat Day today. Diplomatic corps led by Director-General U Aye Thaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Hotel Golden Land Pandal this morning where they enjoyed traditional foods and Thingyan songs and dances. The diplomats, officials of the pandal and artistes played water happily. They then proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw FC Pandal where they enjoyed choral dances and songs. Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife and party welcomed the diplomatic corps led by Dean of the Corps Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua and wife with scented water at Maxwell Myanmar Guest Hotel and Shwe Than Lwin Co Pandal and Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Pandal. Union Ministers at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt and U Soe Maung, deputy ministers and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council played water with the diplomatic corps headed by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin. The diplomatic corps enjoyed choral dances of artistes from the Ministry of Culture.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan filled with lively entertainment

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April— Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Pandals have been still active since Maha Thingyan Akyo Day. Also today Maha Thingyan Akyat Day, revellers packed the Hotel Zone pandals on Nay Pyi Taw Raza Thingaha Road, enjoying lively performances of Myanmar famous pop stars and film stars and free snacks offered by merit-makers.

National Landmark Garden (Nay Pyi Taw), Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, Safari Park were full of Thingyan fans getting relaxation in the afternoon.

Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Maha Thingyan Pandal was alive with performances of choral dance troupes, pop stars, film stars and revellers. Likewise, Ottarathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Pobbathiri, Pyinnmana, Tatkon, Lewe Townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area saw the pandals packed with Thingyan fans.—MNA

Late Carroll header completes turnaround as Reds secure FA Cup final spot

LONDON, 14 April— Andy Carroll scored a dramatic late winner as Liverpool came from behind to defeat Merseyside rivals Everton 2-1 to reach the FA Cup final in a Craig Bellamy free-kick in the 87th minute to keep Liverpool on course for a domestic cup double. It was the second time in five days that Carroll had come to Liverpool’s rescue after scoring an injury-time winner in the Premier League victory over Blackburn in midweek. More importantly the goal ensured Liverpool have the opportunity to finish a disappointing season on a high in next month’s final where they will face the winner of Sunday’s last-four clash with Tottenham and Chelsea. Carroll’s decisive strike came after Liverpool had fought back to level through Luis Suarez on 62 minutes following Nikica Jelavic’s opener for Everton. Liverpool had started well, with Glen Johnson surging forward menacingly after only three minutes to release Carroll. The pony-tailed striker cut back deﬁlly to Jay Spearing but the young midfielder should have done better than a shot which flew harmlessly over. Liverpool chances thereafter were few and far between, and while Kenny Dalglish’s side often advanced into good attacking positions their forwards invariably fizzled out because of poor play in the ﬁnal third. Everton meanwhile looked com-fortable throughout the ﬁrst period, mapping up Liverpool’s attacks with ease and probing for openings. Internet

Cup final at Wembley here on Saturday. Carroll — the club’s much-maligned £35 million record signing — glanced in a Craig Bellamy free-kick in the 87th minute to keep Liverpool on course for a domestic cup double.

Carroll celebrates with team-mate Luis Suarez

Science Daily, 14 April—As ocean temperatures rise, some species of corals are likely to succeed at the expense of others, according to a report published online on April 12 in the Cell Press journal Current Biology that details the first large-scale investigation of climate effects on corals.

“The good news is that, rather than experiencing wholesale destruction, many coral reefs will survive climate change by changing the mix of coral species as the ocean warms and becomes more acidic,” said Terry Hughes of James Cook University in Australia. “That’s important for people who rely on the rich and beautiful coral reefs of today and tomorrow. “In an attempt to understand the sorts of changes that may take place as the world’s oceans warm, the researchers examined the coral composition of reefs along the entire length of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef.—Internet

Late Carroll header sent Liverpool through to the FA Cup final as they came from behind to beat Everton at Wembley.—INTERNET

Coral on the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. —Internet

Under climate change, winners and losers on the coral reef

Internet

Andy Carroll’s late header sent Liverpool through to the FA Cup final as they came from behind to beat Everton.