Union Minister for Information and for Culture attends merit-sharing ceremony for 19 renovated Thudhamma Rest Houses in Mandalay

NAV PYI TAW, 21 April—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan attended a merit-sharing ceremony for 19 renovated Thudhamma Rest Houses in Mandalay Region, this morning.

First, the Union Minister together with Director-General of the Department U Kyaw Oo Lwin and officials inspected the repairing and renovation of the 19 rest houses, the stones inscriptions featuring donors, maintenance of paintings depicting Jataka. He then instructed officials to maintain the rest houses without harming the ancient original styles and cordially greeted the rest house donors.

Shwe Wah Win Monastery Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing the merits gained. After the ceremony, the Union Minister and the congregation offered day’s meals to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Next, the Union Minister attended the merit-sharing ceremony for 19 renovated Thudhamma Rest Houses with contributions of people in Mandalay. Region Minister U Phone Wah Win Monastery Sayadaw. Region Minister U Phone Zaw Han and officials also donated alms to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

The ceremony was also attended by State Ovadacariya Shweegyin Sangha Raja Mandalay Region Maha Wihokhayon Taikthit Waso Monastery Sayadaw.

In its drive for development of market economy, the government has been encouraging farmers to grow whatever crops were once on the lists of vegetables and now farmers had been permitted to grow economically viable crops for their benefits.

According to township manager U Saw Linn, 8000 muskmelon plants are grown on an acre of land and the net profit is K 2,217,150 for an acre. It is learnt that a farmer from other villages.

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Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Value-added crops help farmers get increased income

In its drive for development of market economy, the government has been encouraging farmers to grow whatever crops were once on the lists of vegetables and now farmers had been permitted to grow economically viable crops for their benefits.
Mine blast kills one in Muse

**Nav Pyi Taw, 21 April**—A mine blast occurred in 105-mile trade zone in Muse of Shan State, killing a staff leaving no injured.

U Kyi Tun, assistant immigration officer in charge was among the victims of the mine blast planted by insurgents. As he was discharging his duties at van inspection gate at the exit to Lashio from Muse, 105-mile trade zone in Muse Township at 5.20 am yesterday, a local hand-made mine was discharged killing him on the spot. No other staff and traders were wounded from the blast. Eight batteries of Power brand, white-coloured switch of Wokee and brand ball bearings were seized from the scene and police are investigating into the case.

As the insurgents have been committing subversive acts including mines attacks on public places to kill panic the innocent people, the public is to report to the personnel concerned in case something suspicious is found, warned the authorities concerned.

Respects paid to older persons in Taunggyi

**Nav Pyi Taw, 21 April**—The 15th ceremony to pay respects to older persons was held at the city hall in Taunggyi on 17 April afternoon.

Secretary of Shan State Government U Khin Maung Than explained matters related to the respect-paying ceremony.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and wife Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt and party paid respects to the older persons and presented cash assistance to them.

U Thaung Hlaing of 88 years old from Yadanar Thiri Ward gave words of advice.

A total of 262 older persons attended the ceremony.

MNA

Self-reliant concrete roads commissioned in Mawlamyinegyun

**Yangon, 21 April**—A ceremony to inaugurate new self-reliant concrete roads was held in conjunction with the ceremony to drive stakes for construction of the jetty on 14th street in Myoma Ward 6 in Mawlamyinegyun of Labutta District in Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

Township Administrator U Htay Maung explained the purpose of construction for the new concrete roads and jetty.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Transport U Than Tun, Region Minister for Social Affairs U San Maung, wellwishers U Hla Shwe and U Win Kyaw formally opened the new concrete roads.

After that, the wellwishers donated cash to the fund for construction of the jetty to be built at the corner of Maha Bandaol 1st Street and 15th road in Mawlamyinegyun.

The region ministers, Director of Region Development Affairs Committee U Aung Min Naing and Deputy Commissioner U Kwin Win of District General Administration Department drove stakes for construction of the jetty.

MNA

U Tint Swe concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Romania

**Nav Pyi Taw, 20 April**—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Myanmar to the Republic of Italy, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Romania. —MNA

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As the insurgents have been committing subversive acts including mines attacks on public places to kill panic the innocent people, the public is to report to the personnel concerned in case something suspicious is found, warned the authorities concerned.
China denies US accusation of spying space technology

BEIJING, 21 April — China denied Friday a US accusation that it engaged in intelligence activity in space that could be partially attributed to espionage. "China deeply regret[s] the relevant report from the US administration, and is firmly against the groundless accusation made against China," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin said at a press briefing. The Wednesday report, jointly prepared by the US defence and state departments, recommended loosening US export controls on items used to build satellites and other relevant equipment.

However, it suggested maintaining or tightening controls on "a list of two particular countries like China and Iran," and accused China of "spying space technology." The report mistakenly insisted on the two-decade-old satellite export restrictions against China, which was against the consensus reached between the two heads of state on enhancing space cooperation," Liu said.

The achievements made in China’s space programmes should be attributed to the hard pioneering work, innovation and diligence of the Chinese people, he said. "Any restriction, imputation or defamation against China's cause of space exploration will end in vain," Liu said. He stressed that China should stick to peaceful development, constantly improve its exploration and science work, and carry out research in the peaceful use of outer space and carry out international cooperation with other countries.

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Mexico preps shelters as volcano roars, spews ash

XALITZINTLA, 21 April— The white-capped volcano that sent glowing avalanches of ash and steam into the sky, and prompted a two-week evacuation of hundreds of thousands of families, erupted again in southern Mexico on Friday as authorities prepared shelters for residents fearful of more violence.

Local authorities, monitoring the activity, said the volcano started up again at 4 a.m. at the rate of 20 pyroclastic flows per minute. "Up the mountain, it feels incredible,” said Aaron Sanchez Ochoelot, 45, who was in his turf grass fields when the eruptions happened. "It sounds like the roaring of the sea.”

A plane of ash and smoke rose from the Popocatepetl volcano seen from the outskirts of the town of Santiago Xalitlazintla, Mexico, on 20 April 2012. Authorities are preparing evacuation routes, ambulances and shelters in the event of a bigger explosion after the volcano that looms over Mexico City emitted a low-pitched roar early Friday morning and spewed ash and steam.— Reuters

Pakistan aircraft crash: Black box recovered by search teams

ISLAMABAD, 21 April A black box flight recorder from a Pakistani private airlines plane, that crashed near Islamabad international airport Friday evening killing 127 people on board, has been recovered by search teams, officials said. "Recovery of the black box has raised hopes of understanding what really caused the crash of a Boeing aircraft of private Bhoja Airlines. The data recorder was handed over to the Pakistan Air Force for investigation, officials said. All record of control tower and radar systems at the Islamabad airport was sealed to listen to the conversation between the pilot and aviation officials, officials said. President Asif Ali Zardari directed to hold inquiry into the matter and that the report be submitted to the presidency, presidential spokesman said. Interior Minister Rahman Malik and officials of the airline confirmed there is no survivor among 118 passengers and 9 crew members.

The Interior Minister also said there are strong indications that lightning may have hit the plane but he said that black box would determine the real cause. Civil aviation authorities believe that the Boeing-737 crashed after running into lightning and heavy rain over Islamabad. Witnesses said the plane crashed on residential area, causing fire in the plane and several houses. Officials said there was no causality on the ground and all residents of the affected houses were safe. The plane BA-213 was coming from the port city of Karachi to Islamabad when came down about 10 to 20 kilometres away from the Islamabad’s Benazir Bhutto International Airport at 6:45 pm local time. The plane crashed minutes before it had to be landed, the aviation authority said. The Defence Ministry ordered inquiry into the crash and formed a committee to submit a report. The committee will be headed by group captain Majid Khan of Pakistan Air Force.— Xinhua

Road accident kills 43 in eastern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 21 April At least 43 people were killed in a road accident when a cargo truck crashed into a tour bus in the eastern Mexican state of Veracruz, local government authorities said on Friday.

The early morning collision occurred near the municipality of Alamo Temapache in northern Veracruz, and four minors were among the dead, a municipal spokesman said.

According to initial investigations, the vehicles collided after the truck’s trailer decoupled, said Gina Domínguez, a spokeswoman for the Veracruz state government. She confirmed the death toll reported by local authorities.

President Felipe Calderón expressed his sadness over the crash in a message posted on his Twitter account.

“My deepest condolences for the families of those who died in the terrible accident this morning in Veracruz,” he said.

The spokesman in Alamo Temapache could not say how many people were injured in the accident, which occurred in a part of Mexico that has been plagued by drug-related gang violence in recent years. Local media put the number at more than 20.

Police reports showed both the vehicles had license plates from the State of Mexico, which borders the capital, the spokesman added.

Veracruz State Thursday.

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INTERNET

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INTERNET

18 security forces killed in Syria attacks: state media

DAMASCUS, 21 April — A powerful blast killed 10 members of the security forces in the southern Syrian region of Quneitra on Friday, state television reported, blaming the explosion on "terrorists.” An armed terrorist group detonated a 100-kilogramme (220-pound) bomb in Sahm al-Jolan in the region of Quneira, killing 10 members of the security forces,” the channel said. The state-run SANA news agency said the bomb was detonated by remote control and targeted a bus transporting government troops. Quneira is near the demarcation line with Israel, in the disputed Golan Heights. A similar bomb attack in the town of Karak, in southern Daraa province, killed five soldiers, SANA said, also blaming armed “terrorist groups.” Three more soldiers were killed in separate incidents elsewhere, according to state media.

An armed terrorist group was behind the attacks against civilians and security forces as well as private and public property in violation of the plan by envoy Kofi Annan,” SANA said. It was referring to a six-point plan drawn up by UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan in a bid to halt 13 months of violence that the United Nations says has left more than 9,000 people dead. Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights said 13 civilians were killed on Friday across the country. It said regime forces killed an activist in Idlib, two civilians in Damascus and one in Aleppo and another in a bomb blast in the same region. Five civilians were also killed in the shellings of neighbourhoods in Homs in central Syria, while gunfire and explosions were also heard in Qusayr near Homs, where the Observatory reported three civilians deaths.

INTERNET

A handout picture released by Shaam News Network shows a Syrian tank at a military checkpoint on the outskirts of Halfaya on 15 April, 2012. Ap

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**Science & Technology**

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**US scientists head to Mount Everest for research**

Katmati, 21 April—A team of American scientists and researchers flew to the Mount Everest region on Friday to set up a laboratory at the base of the world's highest mountain to study the effects of high altitude on humans. The team from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota says it plans to monitor nine climbers attempting to scale Everest to learn more about the physiology of humans at high altitudes in order to help patients with heart conditions and other ailments.

“We are interested in some of the parallels between high altitude physiology and heart failure physiology,” Dr. Bruce Johnson, who is heading the team, told The Associated Press before leaving Nepal's capital, Katmandu, for the mountain.

“What we are doing here will help us with our work that we have been doing in the (Mayo Clinic) laboratory.” Johnson and the eight other team members flew to the airstrip at Lukla, near Everest, on Friday.

It will take them about a week to trek to the Everest base camp, with several porters and yaks helping to carry their 680 kilograms (1,500 pounds) of medical equipment. They will set up their lab at the base camp, which is located at 5,300 meters (17,380 feet), and expect to be at the camp until at least mid-May. The team says Everest's extreme altitude puts climbers under the same conditions experienced by patients suffering from heart disease. The team members plan to study the effects of high altitude on the heart, the lungs, muscle loss and sleep during their stay at Everest, which peaks at 8,850 meters (29,035 feet).

**NASA sets challenges for citizen scientists**

Washington, 21 April—US space agency NASA has launched a competition to find “space apps” to aid space exploration and education. The two-day event will bring programmers together on seven continents to see who is the most creative. They can be with NASA's store of space data. Problems NASA wants solved include improving data sharing after disasters and spotting good lunar landing sites. Coders on the International Space Station and at McMurdo base in Antarctica will join in.

The event runs from 21-22 April at more than 25 locations across the US. Hundreds of people have registered to go along and take part in the various challenges.

NASA hopes the weekend will lead to the creation of mobile apps, software, and hardware as well as visualisations of some of its large data sets. The resulting code will be judged and used by NASA in its space exploration missions. One challenge hopes to find a way to let astronauts bake bread in space to improve morale by reminiscing of home.

Other challenges are more Earth bound and are directed towards aims such as better ways to monitor water use - to ensure scarce supplies are not depleted or warn of impending droughts. In a statement, NASA said the Space Apps Challenge was a citizen science event that would help to change the way the US government interacts with people.

**Weather forecast delays shuttle’s arrival to NYC**

New York, 21 April—The space shuttle Enterprise’s scheduled arrival in New York City has been pushed back because of possible bad weather. NASA says Monday’s planned arrival of the shuttle has been postponed until further notice.” The Enterprise is being brought to the city where it has a new permanent home waiting at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum.

NASA managers are monitoring weather forecasts and will reschedule the shuttle’s flight as soon as possible. The plan is to fly the shuttle atop a carrier aircraft to New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport. It will be moved by barge to the Intrepid museum for public display. The museum is at a decommissioned aircraft carrier moored off Manhattan. It’s been making room for the shuttle on its flight deck.

**US smartphone to go on sale in ‘late 2012’**

New York, 21 April—Mobile phones running an operating system developed by makers of the Firefox web browser will go on sale in late 2012. The first handsets running Mozilla’s “Boot to Gecko” (B2G) software will be available in Brazil on Telefonica Vivo’s mobile network. Brazilian tech blog Zup broke the news but had no details about which firm will make the handsets. Announced in July 2011, B2G aims to be an open rival to Google’s Android.

The Mozilla Foundation is best known for its Firefox browser that adheres strictly to official standards for writing and viewing web pages. B2G was started as a way to bring the same discipline necessary to code open source software to people more control over what their phones do and the applications they run. It gets the name “Gecko” because that is the part of Firefox that decides how to display pages in a web browser. Speaking at a Press conference in São Paulo, Gary Kovacs, chief executive officer of Mozilla, said this openness would make a difference to the way applications on phones operate.

**Report says blind-spot safety technology should be mandatory**

London, 21 April—All buses and lorries in the UK should be fitted with collision avoidance technology by 2015, a report has recommended. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (ImechE) said more could be done to protect those in drivers’ blind-spots. The report suggested the adoption of available technology. The report also called for a mandatory automated emergency response system. The ImechE said services like 999—which can inform emergency services of an accident even if a driver is unconscious—had the potential to cut road fatalities by as much as 10%.

“The alarming rise in cyclist deaths on British roads needs to be addressed urgently,” said Philippa Oldham, head of transport at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. “Cyclist deaths have risen by 7% in the past year, with about eight cyclists and pedestrians injured daily on British roads. A number of these deaths could be prevented if technology to prevent driver blind spots were made mandatory for all large vehicles.”

The report, published on Thursday, recommended the adoption of technology called Lateral Safe, a collision avoidance system being developed by the European Council for Automotive Research and Development. The system uses sensors placed around large vehicles to warn drivers of potential obstacles, including cyclists and pedestrians. Many accidents are caused when an obstacle appears in a driver’s blind-spot—an area not visible in the vehicle’s mirrors.

Other suggestions included the adoption of autonomous driving technology, such as Google’s Driverless car, which uses data gathered using Google Street View as well as sensors and cameras on the car. Ms Oldham added: “By putting the UK at the forefront of intelligent transport technology we can also build an industry that is set to redefine the car in the next few decades, tapping into a market that will be worth about £4bn by 2020.”

**Verizon plans big Windows Phone push for the holidays**

Washington, 21 April—Verizon Wireless chief financial officer Fran Shammo said the company is looking to market a third mobile platform to help develop a strong competitor to Apple and Google. That operating system will be Microsoft’s upcoming Windows Phone 8. “We’re really looking at the Windows Phone 8.0 platform because that’s a differentiator. We’re working with Microsoft on it,” Shammo said in an interview with Reuters following the company’s earnings call on Thursday. The carrier expects to have Windows Phone 8-powered handsets in time for the 2012 holiday shopping season. The executive suggested that Verizon could play a similar role in helping Microsoft’s platform to grow as it did with Google’s Android OS.

The number of accidents involving big vehicles and cyclists has risen, researchers said.

LONDON, 21 April—The number of crashes between big vehicles and cyclists has risen significantly. Research from Imperial College London has found that the number of cyclists killed increased by 25% from 2009 to 2010. The number of accidents involving big vehicles and cyclists has risen, researchers said.

**Other suggestions included the adoption of autonomous driving technology, such as Google’s Driverless car, which uses data gathered using Google Street View as well as sensors and cameras on the car. Ms Oldham added:**

“By putting the UK at the forefront of intelligent transport technology we can also build an industry that is set to redefine the car in the next few decades, tapping into a market that will be worth about £4bn by 2020.”
**Business & Health Business & Health & Business & Health**

**Clock change could leave teenagers more sleepy**

**London, 21 April** — Teens can suffer severe sleep deprivation when the clocks change, say researchers at the University of Surrey. The amount they sleep decreases to less than six hours a night on average the week following the move to British Summer Time. During this period their concentration may be lower and mood affected. Scientists also found that even before the change, teenagers were getting less than the recommended hours of sleep. The activity of some sixth-form students from Claremont Fan Court School in Surrey was studied using wristwatches. These were worn constantly over a 10-day period before and after the clocks moved forward on 25 March. The watches reliably indicated when the teenagers were awake and asleep. The researchers found that in the days following the clock change, the teenagers had less than six hours of sleep a night. Adults generally have eight. Joanne Bower, a sleep researcher at the University of Surrey said: “During adolescence, teenagers experience a shift in their circadian rhythm [body clock] — these make sure the same things happen at the same time every day. One of these things is the production of a sleep promoting hormone, melatonin. “For an adult, you would expect that to be early in the evening, but in teenagers it happens much later. “Even if you put your teenager to bed at 10 at night, they may not secrete melatonin until midnight, and so they’re staring at the ceiling, and aren’t sleepy.”

This means teenagers are awake later in the evening and find it difficult to rise early in the morning. “Add this to the clock change, in which we lose an hour of sleep, and teenagers may suffer more than most.”

The need for more sleep is something teenagers are familiar with. Noelle Delaney, a mother of a student involved in the study, said: “Some days it can be very difficult. I have been known to go in and pull her by her feet out of bed.”

Consistent sleep deprivation can affect your health. Internet

**Early milk feeds ‘benefits premature babies’**

**London, 21 April** — At-risk premature babies would benefit from being given milk feeds earlier, a study has suggested. The University of Oxford study found babies were not at a higher risk of severe bowel problems if moved to tubefeed early, as was feared. Four hundred babies, born at least five weeks early and small for their age, were studied for the Pediatrics paper. The premature baby charity Bliss said it hoped the findings would lead to change in feeding practices. Over 60,000 babies are born prematurely every year in the UK and one in 10 babies born in the UK needs some form of special care because of problems during their birth, because of a life-threatening condition or because they were born too early.

In a new study babies were observed to move off tube feeds early, as feared. Four hundred babies, born at least five weeks early and small for their age, were studied for the Pediatrics paper. The premature baby charity Bliss said it hoped the findings would lead to change in feeding practices. Over 60,000 babies are born prematurely every year in the UK and one in 10 babies born in the UK needs some form of special care because of problems during their birth, because of a life-threatening condition or because they were born too early.

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China, Iceland agree to expedite free trade talks

REYKJAVIK, 21 April — Visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Icelandic President Olafur Ragnar Grimson agreed here Friday that the two sides will accelerate their free trade negotiations. In his meeting with Grimson, Wen suggested Iceland speed up the negotiating process, which was officially launched in 2007, and strive together to bring forth the first free trade zone between China and a European nation next year.

“I have come here not only along with Chinese people’s friendship with the Icelandic people, but also sincere aspiration to advance bilateral cooperation,” said Wen. The 41-year-old China-Iceland diplomatic relationship has proved that countries with different social systems and cultural backgrounds can foster friendly relations on the basis of mutual respect and equality, he added.

Meanwhile, Wen also confirmed China’s readiness to further cooperate with Iceland in such areas as investment, clean energy, science and technology, education and Arctic affairs. By doing so, the Chinese Premier said, the two countries will jointly tackle challenges, share development opportunities and bring more benefits to their peoples.

Hailing Wen’s visit as a new milestone in bilateral ties with historic significance, Grimson also expressed the hope for an early signing of a bilateral free trade deal.

Ruins of ancient town found in China’s largest desert

QIYI, (Xinjiang), 21 April — Chinese archeologists working in Xinjiang’s Otagur Raamun Region have found the ruins of an ancient town in the country’s largest desert. The town, covering at least 65,000 square metres, was uncovered last week in the Taklamakan Desert in Qira county, Hotan prefecture, Dr Wu Xinhu, head of the Xinjiang archaeology team of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said on Friday.

Judging from the layout and ruins of the buildings, Wu and his colleagues believe the town dates back to the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD220). The southern end of the ancient Silk Road, a major historical trade route, went across the Taklamakan Desert, and a wide variety of cultural heritage items have been buried in what is now known as the “sea of death.”

One village was reported to be in a state of terror over the death of a resident, and altogether 171 people reported infections on their feet. The Ngasirao Dong (Labourer) daily said frightened residents had blocked access to the town and were taking steps to reduce the mortality rate. About one in 10 of those suffering from the condition had serious liver disorder, but the disease is not transmissible except through contact with cut skin, media reports quoted health officials as saying.

Strong quake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 21 April — An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 struck eastern Indonesia on Saturday off Fren laya, the United States Geological Survey said, and the Indonesian disaster mitigation agency said the quake has no tsunami potential. The USGS said the quake was recorded offshore, 51 miles south-southeast of the town of Manokwari, at a depth of 18.5 miles. It had initially estimated the magnitude of the tremor at 6.9 and 7.0. At least one major aftershock was recorded.

In Manokwari, “the quake was felt quite strongly for a couple of seconds, and residents ran away from houses and buildings,” said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the spokesman for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency. There were no immediate reports of damage, although the office is still waiting for reports from the regions, Nugroho added.

Aboriginal teens shot by Sydney police

SYDNEY, 21 April — Two Aboriginal teenagers were shot by police in central Sydney on Saturday after mounting a crowded footpath in a stolen car and hitting a bystander, stoking race tensions in the city. The 14-year-old driver was hit in the chest and arm and his passenger, 18, took a bullet to the neck after police opened fire on the windscreen of their car as it sped onto a busy pavement in the city’s Kings Cross nightclub zone.

Assistant police commissioner Mark Murdoch said onlookers “literally jumped for their lives” as the stolen vehicle mounted the kerb at around 4am, moving down a 29-year-old woman who was hospitalised with chest injuries.

Murdoch said police had recognized the driver and passenger as youths from the inner-city Aboriginal district of Redfern, and the pair had sped the car onto the footpath “to avoid apprehension” as officers had approached them. “That vehicle struck a female pedestrian. That female pedestrian was pushed under the front of the vehicle,” Murdoch told reporters. “At that point police, in an attempt to protect that person, discharged a number of shots into the vehicle.”

Whether “that decision turned out to be the right decision” would be determined by an internal investigation but Murdoch said his advice was “that the police had little other option” to protect onlookers. “We have a vehicle being driven on the footpath... when there are many tens, if not potentially hundreds of people. That to me presents a significant risk of harm to the community,” Murdoch said.

Both teenagers were in hospital and the driver was in a "serious but stable" condition. Murdoch said they were expected to recover from their injuries.

Vietnam seeks foreign help after skin disease kills 19

HANOI, 21 April — Vietnam’s health authorities have reported a resurgence of a mystery skin infection that has already killed 19 people in the central region and terrific villagers, state-run media reported on Saturday.

The disease was first reported between April and December last year, with doctors unable to identify the cause and it has re-emerged in a mountainous district of Quang Ngi Province.

One village was reported to be in a state of terror over the death of a resident, and altogether 171 people reported infections on their feet. The Ngasirao Dong (Labourer) daily said frightened residents had blocked access to the town and were taking steps to reduce the mortality rate. About one in 10 of those suffering from the condition had serious liver disorder, but the disease is not transmissible except through contact with cut skin, media reports quoted health officials as saying.

This file photo shows village halls on the west coast of Indonesia’s Sumatra island, near Bandar Aceh, taken on 12 April. — INTERNET

This file photo shows a busy street in central Sydney. Two Aboriginal teenagers aged 14 and 18 were shot by police in central Sydney on Saturday after mounting a crowded footpath in a stolen car and hitting a bystander as officers gave chase. — INTERNET

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (L) meets with Icelandic President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 20 April, 2012. — Xinhua

Ruins of several pottery kilns, orchards, Buddhist stupas, temples, and large amounts of carbonized jujube and poplar seeds have been unearthed from this wall, said Dr Wu.

Wu said the ruins are the most intact of their kind found among the building heritage items have been buried in what is now known as the “sea of death.”

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Forbidden City to open new area to visitors

BEIJING, 21 April — The Palace Museum in the heart of Beijing, more popularly known as the Forbidden City, will open its Huangji Palace to the public before the May Day holiday, the museum said on Friday. Huangji Palace, built in 1689, was used to hold ceremonies for emperors after they finished handling state affairs.

According to a statement of the museum, the refurbished palace will open to the public during major holidays, including the May Day holidays and summer holiday. The Palace Museum will adjust the palace’s opening hours in accordance with weather conditions to protect the safety of its cultural relics, the statement said.

Shan Jixiang, curator of the Palace Museum, said the opening of Huangji Palace is part of the museum’s plan to enlarge the areas for visitors, from about 45 percent at present to 76 percent in the future. Huangji Palace used to be an exhibition hall where calligraphy works, paintings and jewelry were displayed. The palace no longer functions as a display area since undergoing renovations in 2004. The Palace Museum will open one hour earlier than usual during the May Day holiday from 29 April to 1 May.

Three arrested after fatal shooting at Texas cockfighting ring

EDINBURG, 21 April — Three men have been arrested and charged with operating a cockfighting ring, a local sheriff said on Friday. A day after masked gunmen shot three people during a match, investigators have not identified the gunmen who shot the spectators on Thursday morning in a remote area about 20 miles from the US-Mexico border, Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino said.

Police arrested a man and a woman who owned the land where an elaborate cockfighting ring is operated for years, and the proprietor who rented the location, Trevino said. Operating a cockfighting ring is illegal under Texas law.

The shooting may have been an act of revenge, Trevino said. Asked if the gunmen had ties to a Mexican drug cartel, he said: “Anyone who has heard of the drug cartels knows this can be aUsted by the fact of bullets, Trevino said. The Garcia brothers may have been involved in a drive-by shooting in the area last week.

The shooting is believed to have been a result of a feud between two families, the sheriff said. The Garzas and the Buentello Garza clan, 41, have been seen together in videos of bullets, Trevino said. The Garcia brothers may have been involved in a drive-by shooting in the area last week.

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Union Minister for Information and for Culture attends merit-sharing...

(from page 1)
Abhiddaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhiddaja Agga Maha S d a h m a j o t i k a Bhaddanta Agghiya, State Ovadacariya Mandalay Region, Dr. Than Myint Kyaw Taung Shwe Wah Win Monastery, Saydaw Abhiddaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhiddaja Agga Maha S d a h m a j o t i k a Bhaddanta Sasanabhisamana and members of the Sangha, Mandalay Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Phone Zaw Han, officials of the ministry of information and the ministry of culture and region level and the ministry of information and for culture and for Finance and Revenue U Mandalay Region Minister of Finance and Revenue U Hong Ngai, State Minister for Transport U Shan Shwe Ngwe, State Minister for Agriculture U Aung Aung, and Minister for Transport U Yuan Htan expressed words of thanks.

Htao-Saisichauk Road put into service in Thantlang Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 April — The opening ceremony of Htao-Saisichauk Road in Thantlang Township in Chin State was held at the hall of relief and resettlement.

Storm victims in Ywangan, Pindaya townships get cash assistance

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 April — The cash donation ceremony was held for storm victims at the office of the Leading Body of Danu Self-Administered Zone on 14 April. Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat made an opening speech. Next, he provided K 4,350,000 for damages in Myogyi Village of Ywangan Township, seven households from Namkhon Village-tract and 66 households from Myogyi Village-tract, damages in Thitbin and Theingon Villages in Pindaya Township, People’s Hospital and five households from Hagedypawdaw Ward.

Value-added crops help farmers get increased income

(from page 1)
In addition, it is learnt that the net profit of one acre of melon is K 282,000 kyats and that of tomato is K 1,392,150 kyats. In Chaung-U Township, 2190 acres of land were put under musk melon plantation in 10 village-tracts in 2011-2012 fiscal year, earning K 485,558,500. 137 acres of melon could be grown in five village-tracts, generating K 39,182,000 in profit. The 19 village-tracts could grow 469 acres of tomato, earning K 652,918,350. As Chaung-U Township has gained a total profit of K 1,177,658,850, it has seen a significant rise in GDP with socio-economic development of farmers.

GDP through cultivation of value-added crops, I hope other regions with favourable climate and soil will take its example to grow value-added crops, thereby contributing to self, regional to national interests.
Bus-line Control Committee
Yangon Region All Private Administrator U Soe Tun and information, Township apartment shop and two one-storey buildings, three pm on 11 April.

Wakema Township at 6.30 in Shwelaung Village of Myo Khaing on Thida Road fire broke out from the house

Regularly, anyone may dial 2 pm to 5 pm systematically.

bins from 8 am to 10 am and to throw garbage to trash

tarnish image of the town.

garbage and piles of garbage undisciplined throwing of garbage in the township area sanitation and gather affairs committee carry out township development affairs committee has implemented polyethylene bag free from 1-1-2012 to 31-3-2012. As of 1-4-2012, action is being taken against those who throw garbage without disciplines. At the same time, bags are being distributed in replacement of polyethylene bags at markets and wards free of charge.

In Bago, the local people throw 30 tons of garbage per day including that of restaurants and markets.

people educated to systematically throw garbage in Bago.

Bridge on Mandalay-Myitkyina Road at Mawlu repaired

Mawlu, 21 April—A bridge, 90 feet long and 15 feet wide, at mile post 162/10 on Mandalay-Myitkyina strategic road, linking Mawlu Ward and Simaw Village was repaired in Mawlu Model Village of Mandalay Township in Sagaing Region on 10 April.

The repairing work cost over K 4 million, according to Hsuitoopan road and bridge manager.

May I help You

Mandalay, 21 April—Under the supervision of Mandalay Region Police Force, Township Police Force distributed pamphlets on dos and don’ts to the people not to guard against theft cases, looting cases, human trafficking, murder and rape cases.

With a view to bringing down crimes in Mandalay, anyone may ask help from Mandalay Region Police Force, Tel: 02-39635, Mandalay District Police Force, Tel: 02-36899, Aungmyethazan Township Police Force, Tel: 02-36780, Chanayethazan Township Police Force, Tel: 02-36782, Chammyathazi Township Police Force; Tel: 02-70863, Pygigadun Township Police Force; Tel: 02-80347,

Amarapura Township Police Force; Tel: 02-57905 and Pathengyi Township Police Force, Tel: 02-57749, Mandalay No 1 Police Station, Tel: 02-61207, No 2 Police Station 02-32008; No 3 Police Station 02-32089; No 4 Police Station 02-60831; No 5 Police Station 02-36991; No 6 Police Station 02-36992; No 7 Police Station 02-36993; No 8 Police Station 02-36994; No 9 Police Station 02-36995; No 10 Police Station 02-63145; No 11 Police Station 02-36996; Aungtine Police Station 02-62710 and Pygigadun Police Station 02-80348.

Reading Habit Raised: The ceremony to raise reading habit and to award winners in essay, extempore talk and poem recitation was held at No 14 Basic Education Primary School in Myothit Ward 8 of Insein Township recently, Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe speaking on the occasion.

Shwe Creek Bridge No 1 under construction

Pakokku, 21 April—Special Project Group 3 of Public Works under Ministry of Construction is implementing Bridge No 1 Project to be substitute in the place of Shwechaung Bridge damaged in flood in Bago in October 2011. So far, construction of the bridge has completed by 50 per cent.

Construction tasks started on 7 February 2012. The facility will be 900 feet long and 20 feet wide, and will have two-way motor road. Pedestrian way will be 3.5 feet wide on either side. The bridge will withstand 75 tons of loads. The bridge is made of reinforced concrete bored piles and reinforced concrete structure. The upper structure is being built with prestressed concrete beams and floors.

Pakokku Shwe Creek Bridge No 1 is located on Pakokku-Yesagyo-Monywa Road.
South Okkalapa Township gets new library

YANGON, 21 April—A ceremony to open Zeyamon Library was held at the office of Ward 10 administrative office in South Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region on 6 April morning.

Ward administrator U Myint Hian explained the purpose of opening the library and tasks to develop the library in the long run. Writer Maung Paw Tun, a townselder, gave talks on literary affairs.

The ward administrator presented commemorative pennants to an official and certificates of honour to wellwishers. Next, donors presented books to the library.

After that, South Okkalapa Township Hluttaw representative U Myo Min Aung, Township Administrator U Chit Thein, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin Si and Ward administrator U Myint Hian formally opened the library.

Myanma Alin

Plan under way to build suspension bridge across tributary of river

MYINNA, 21 April—A plan is under way to build a suspension bridge across Hsin Creek, which is a tributary of Dokhtawady River, between Migyaungtet Village and Wegyi Hsinywa Village in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region, according to the suspension bridge construction committee.

The suspension bridge will be built with contributions of the local people from two villages, said Migyaungtet Village Administrator U Than Htay of the bridge construction committee.

“Suspension will be constructed on a self-reliant basis. The funds of cash donations and contributions of the local people will be spent on construction tasks. The local people will fund over K 20 million and suspension bridge construction engineers of Switzerland will provide necessary technology for construction tasks,” said U Than Htay.

On completion, the suspension bridge will help develop education, health, economic and social affairs of the local people from Migyaungtet and Wegyi Hsinywa Village, said members of the construction committee U Than Htay and U Min Thein. The facility will be over 250 feet long.

Migyaungtet and Wegyi Hsinywa Villages are home to about 2700 people of about 550 houses and the majority of the people are engaging in cultivation of mango, lime and lemon plantations.

Myanma Alin

Reforms of taxation clarified in Kawlin

KAWLIN, 21 April—Kawlin Township Internal Revenue Department of Sagaing Region made clarifications on reforms of tax collection system as of 2012-2013 fiscal year at Zartman Hall of Kawlin on 9 April morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Myo Naung made a speech.

Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Min Nwe explained amendments of rules and regulations and notifications and directives on taxation to those present.

It was attended by Hluttaw representatives, township level departmental personnel, members of non-governmental organizations, companies, cooperative societies and private entrepreneurs.

After that, the head of Township Internal Revenue Department replied to queries raised by those present.

Myanma Alin

GSM mobile phones worth K 200,000 on sales in Mandalay

Mandalay, 21 April—GSM mobile phones worth K 200,000 with the number 09-4025xxxx are put on sale by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications at Township Communication Stations in townships outside the municipal area of Mandalay Region as of 28 March.

GSM phones with number 09-4025xxxx are also sold in Mandalay City and Patheingyi Township at the Mandalay Region Manager Office of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, Mandalay General Post Office, Namphy Post Office, Yongyi Post Office, Telegraphic Office, Shansui Post Office, Pyidagan Post Office, Amarapura Exchange and Patheingyi Exchange.

The applicants must give three photos and copies of citizenship scrutiny cards. As of the first week in May 2012, the GSM mobile phones may be taken across the nation. WCDMA telephone worth K 250,000 with applications to send voice file and photo file to receivers will be sold soon.

People in the queue to buy GSM mobile telephones worth K 200,000 each at Township Communication Centres in Mandalay.

Bridges on island ringroad inspected in Manaung Township

MANAUNG, 21 April—Bridges are under construction on ringroad of the island in Manaung Township.

On 1 April, Rakhine State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tha Nyunt, Rakhine State Minister for Transport U Kyaw Khin, Minister for Social Affairs Dr Aung Kyaw Min and Rakhine State Superintending Engineer U Kyi Soe of Public Works and party inspected construction of 90-foot Aohok Creek bailey bridge and 60-foot Welang Creek bailey bridge on the ringroad and gave instructions on works.

The Deputy Speaker of the State Hluttaw and Rakhine State ministers looked into progress of Hsachet Station Hospital being built by Mayga Warrazein Construction Company Ltd.

Director U Kyaw Zeyar Win conducted them round the construction site.

Myanma Alin

Crime reduction talk given in Htantabin Township

HTANTABIN, 21 April—A crime reduction talk was given at the head office in South Okkalapa Township on 6 April morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Sein Oak of Meiktila Lake in Meiktila on 17 April, head of the Township Internal Revenue Department, Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe and district and township level personnel release fish into the lake.

Kyemon

Respects paid to the aged in Sangyoung Township

YANGON, 21 April—The Social Affairs Association of Shin Saw Pu Ward in Sangyoung Township organized the 10th ceremony to pay respects to older persons and to present prizes to outstanding students at Shin Saw Pu Dhammayon Pagoda on Shin Saw Pu Pagoda Road in Sangyoung Township on 17 April.

The local people presented cash assistance and gifts to 85 older persons of above 75 years old.

Patron of the association Ward Administrator U Kyaw Tin and members of the association presented prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination with flying colours.

Kyemon

District News

District News

FISHERELEASED: Jivitananda fish releasing was held at South Meiktila Lake in Meiktila on 17 April.

Commissioner U Sein Oo of Meiktila District General Administration Department, Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe and district and township level personnel release fish into the lake.

Kyemon

TAXATION CLARIFIED: The clarification on taxation was held at Thawunna Hall of Thaton Township in Mon State on 6 April. Head of Mon State Internal Revenue Department U Tin Tun Naing explains levying of tax.

Township IRD

People in the queue to buy GSM mobile telephones worth K 200,000 each at Township Communication Centres in Mandalay.

People in the queue to buy GSM mobile telephones worth K 200,000 each at Township Communication Centres in Mandalay.
Desolation of Pakistan avalanche site

ISLAMABAD, 21 April — Half a dozen tattered yellow flags poke from a huge boulder-strewn expanse of gravel and ice. They mark where the buildings of Pakistan’s Gayari Army base once stood. In the early hours of 7 April, thousands of tonnes of ice, rock and snow crashed down onto the camp, the battalion headquarters of the 6th Northern Light Infantry, 4,000 metres (13,000 feet) up in the mountains of Kashmir.

The disaster that entombed 140 people has been described as an avalanche, but the dense, rocky rubble that now covers the camp is a few hundred metres (200 feet) thick, more like the aftermath of a landslide. The Pakistani army has been searching for the 129 soldiers and 11 civilians buried at the remote Gayari site for nearly two weeks and they insist they have not yet given up hope of finding survivors.

But it is almost impossible to imagine anyone surviving even the initial impact of such tons of snow and rock — one of the boulders carried down the mountainside onto the site measures at least 30 metres across and 20 metres high. Yet the search goes on, with bulldozers and mechanical excavators — looking like children’s toys against the immense mountains — ploughing through the debris.

Kashmir.

Pakistan’s Gayari Army base where the buildings of the 6th Northern Light Infantry, 4,000 metres (13,000 feet) up in the mountains of Kashmir.

NASA 1976 Mars mission discovers life

WASHINGTON, 21 April — A new research team conducted by an American scientist provided evidences that the 1976 Mars mission found microbes on the planet, according to a report released Tuesday on the website of American National Broadcasting Company (NBC).

Four decades ago, NASA launched the Viking Mission to probe life on Mars, and then came to a conclusion that the red planet is lifeless.

After using the modern technology to reanalyze the data of 1976 mission, scientists found the microbes in the collected Mars soil might be killed by mistle at temperature of 160-degree Celsius.

“I’m 99 percent sure there’s life there,” said team leader Dr Joseph Miller, a former professor in University of Southern California. "People get emotionally attached to the shuttle,” said Bolden. "You bet we do.”

Balden flew two of his four space missions on Discovery, taking part in one of the most important deliveries: the Hubble telescope. The air- and spacecraft duo’s four-hour flight left the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 6:58 am (1058 GMT), just after dawn. They landed at Washington Dulles International Airport at 11:05 am EDT (1505 GMT).

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**Japanese exports rise as car shipments surge in March**

Tokyo, 21 April — Japan’s export growth in March, boosted by a surge in shipments of cars as the sector continues to recover from last year’s natural disasters. Car exports rose 33.6% from a year earlier, with overall exports up by 5.9%, latest trade data showed. Japanese carmakers have also benefited from growing demand from key markets such as the US. Sales of cars and light trucks in the US rose 13% in March, with Toyota’s sales up by 5% and Nissan gaining 13%.

Ryooji Musaka of Musha Research told the BBC that the “improvement of exports indicates that the Japanese and the global economy are recovering.” Mr. Musaka added that the recent weakness of the yen had also played a part in boosting exports. The currency fell more than 8% against the US dollar between February and March this year, making Japanese goods more affordable to foreign buyers.

Japanese imports rose by 10.5% in March, resulting in a trade deficit of 82.6bn yen ($1bn; £632m) during the month. The jump was driven largely by a 21.8% increase in imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Japan has seen imports of LNG and other fuels rise in recent months. Last year it shut down almost all of its nuclear power stations in the wake of radiation leaks at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant after the earthquake and tsunami. As a result the country’s electricity providers have been relying on more heavily on thermal power plants, which require coal, oil and LNG to operate. Analysts said that growing imports of fuel are likely to affect Japan’s trade numbers in the coming months. “Exports to the United States such as autos are unlikely to osgrow, while the levels of imports will remain high, driven by purchases of natural resources,” said Hideo Shimamine, chief economist at Daichii Life Research Institute. “It looks like we will have trading deficits for the time being.”

**Fitzwilliam Museum theft: Chinese jade art ‘worth millions’**

London, 21 April — Thieves have stolen “valuable and culturally significant” Chinese works of art from a Cambridge museum. The 18 items, mainly jade and from the Fitzwilliam Museum’s permanent collection, are believed to be worth millions of pounds. CambridgePolice said a group of people were involved in the break-in at about 19:30 BST on Friday. A University of Cambridge museum spokesman said a thorough investigation of security measures is under way. “These works are a highly important part of our collection and their loss is a serious blow,” he said.

Forensic examinations have been carried out at the scene and CCTV footage is being examined. Police patrols have also been increased in the area around the museum. A spokeswoman for Cambridge Police said the haul is thought to be worth “millions of pounds”. Det Ch Supt Karen Daber, leading the investigation called Operation Tundra, said a team of detectives was working closely with staff at the Fitzwilliam, the principal museum of the University of Cambridge.

“The items stolen are very valuable and of great cultural significance, so we are absolutely committed to recovering them and bringing those who stole them to justice,” she said. “In particular, we are keen to hear from anyone who may have been in or around the Fitzwilliam Museum between 5pm and 8pm and may have heard or seen anything unusual or suspicious. While this is an exceptional crime for us, we are taking it very seriously, it is also worth remembering that this type of offence is extremely rare. It follows a theft at the Oriental Museum at Durham University where Chinese jade and porcelain items were stolen. The police said they have found and five people have been arrested and questioned about the theft. Mrs Daber refused to speculate on whether the two thefts were linked. Among the stolen items in Cambridge were six pieces from the Ming dynasty— including a jade 16th Century carved buffalo, a carved horse from the 17th Century and a green and brown jade carved elephant. A jade cup and vase which is carved with bronze designs was also stolen along with an opake jade brush washer. Eight pieces from the Qing dynasty were taken, and a table screen from the Qing period and a jade and vase from the 18th Century make up the rest of the stolen items. Their exact value has not been released.

A university spokesman said the museum had a policy of not attaching monetary values to artefacts in its collection.

**Dengue fever kills 10 in southern Philippines**

Cotabato, 21 April — Philippine health authorities reported Friday that at least 10 children had been killed by dengue fever in the first three months of the year in southern Philippines.

Two soldiers wounded in leftist rebel ambush in S Philippines

Davao City, 21 April — Two soldiers were wounded in an ambush by leftist rebels in this southern Philippine city early Thursday evening, the military said on Friday.

Troops on a two-vehicle convoy on their way to fetch doctors and other local health workers for a three-day medical mission were attacked by an unidentified number of New People’s Army guerrillas in East Kibalonga sub-village, Marilog District, Davao City, over 30 km from the city proper, around 6 pm said Major Jacob Obligado, commander of the army’s 10th civil-military battalion.

**NATO says concrete plans emerging for Afghanistan after 2014**

Brussels, 21 April — NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Wednesday he saw an “emerging agreement” among the alliance’s members on what role they would play in Afghanistan once the country’s forces take charge of security by 2015.

Speaking during a meeting of NATO allies in Brussels, Rasmussen said a number of member states had already pledged the size of their financial contributions to help the Afghan government maintain security forces after 2014. “I am very pleased that a number of allies announced today concrete financial contributions to Afghan security forces in the future,” he told a news conference, without specifying which countries or the amounts pledged.

Addressing photographs that appeared in an American newspaper of US soldiers posing with the maimed bodies of dead Afghan militants, Rasmussen said: “I strongly condemn these photos and these acts... I hope there will be no spill-over.” He also said NATO member Turkey has made no request for help in dealing with violence on its border with Syria, but that NATO was ready to consult on any security issues according to its rules.

**Hospitals overcharging for short-stay patients**

London, 21 April — NHS money is being wasted by hospitals in England wrongly charging the health service for treating short-stay patients, a watchdog says.

The Audit Commission said hospitals could earn more than five times as much by recording them as inpatients rather than outpatients. Overcharging and the managerial row caused by the practice was a misuse of resources. The Department of Health said the NHS had to accurately record care given and it would work to bring things into line. The NHS spends £6.8bn a year on short-stayers—17% of the hospital budget. During its review, the Audit Commission took evidence from a small number of hospital trusts and management bodies over how they dealt with patients whose treatment lasted less than 24 hours. It found plenty of evidence of the same treatment being recorded as inpatient in one hospital and an outpatient in another. One trust said the time spent dealing with the disputes caused by the issue was taking up the equivalent of one staff member’s entire workload.

But the watchdog said it was willing to give hospitals the benefit of the doubt, saying there did not seem to be systematic abuse of the system. Instead, the commission said it was more likely to be related to historic custom and practice. As medicine has developed, more and more treatment and recovery is being done during short visits rather than overnight stays. But hospitals were still classing them as inpatients—that is day patients who are admitted into hospital. And because they get more for them, they were reluctant to class them as outpatients and charge less. To illustrate the issue, the report gives an example of an 18-year-old boy who goes to hospital for a simple operation to remove a lesion. He only spends a short time in theatre and is then discharged.

Source: Internet

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**Car exports are a key contributor to Japanese economic growth.** — Internet

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**Researchers told the BBC that the “improvement of exports indicates that the Japanese and the global economy are recovering.” Mr. Musaka added that the recent weakness of the yen had also played a part in boosting exports. The currency fell more than 8% against the US dollar between February and March this year, making Japanese goods more affordable to foreign buyers.**

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**Items from various Chinese dynasties were taken.**

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**The long-stayed rains in this southern Philippine City early Thursday evening, the military said on Friday.**

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**Two soldiers were wounded in an ambush by leftist rebels in this southern Philippine city early Thursday evening, the military said on Friday.**
**World’s oldest living man celebrates 115th birthday**

Jiroemon Kimura of Kyoto, Japan, the world’s oldest living man, celebrated his 115th birthday. According to the Gerontology Research Group (GRG), an international body that specifically deals in longevity research, he is not only the world’s oldest living man, but is also the oldest named individual in recorded history.

“I’m delighted beyond words,” Kimura said of his milestone. However, Kimura is not technically the world’s oldest living person. That distinction belongs to Georgia resident Besse Cooper, who was born on 26 August, 1896.

Kimura has fathered 7 children (5 are still alive), has 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great grandchildren. He says eating small portions of food has been his secret to longevity. Kimura worked at a post office for 38 years before switching careers to become a farmer, which he was until he was 90 years old.

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**South Korean bullfighting is for bulls only**

There is no blood, nor muck gone. Not matted, either, or even his colourful cloak. In South Korea, bull fights kill bulls. Weighting in at 600 kg to over 800 kg (3,122 to over 1,764 lb), dun-coloured Korean Hanwoo bulls clash heads and horns in a sand bullring under the warm sunshine of Cheongdo, a rural town in the hills about two hours from the capital of Seoul.

Once a regular village entertainment in South Korea, bullfighting nearly died out as the nation rapidly industrialized, but festivals like the annual Cheongdo Bullfighting Festival help keep the cherished tradition alive. “When I wake up, the first thing I do is train my bulls, let them run drag tires. Then, I feed them with nutritious porridge,” said Lee Jin-gu, a 59-year-old rancher who has trained fighting bulls for seven years.

“I once stayed in the pens, sleeping next to my bulls for a week,” said Lee, who had four of his prize Korean bulls fighting their way through to the quarter-finals. In all, 96 bulls are competing for the title of strongest bull during the festival, held on 18-22 April , for the top prize of 7 million won ($6,200).

In one bout, last year’s champion, “Fighting,” clashed with “Golgolte,” which means “Dullard,” bellowing as he entered the ring and spectators cheered.

After about three minutes of showing amid the clattering of horns, bellowing dust and shouting fans, their duel was finished. “Fighting” made it through to the next round as his defeated opponent gave way and trotted from the ring. Cheongdo is the festival’s current form has been going on since 1999, although North Gyeongsang Province has a history of the sport going back a thousand years.

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**Levon Helm, longtime drummer in The Band, dead at 71**

NEW YORK, 21 April—Levon Helm, the drummer for The Band who won Grammy awards earlier this year, has died. Helm, the ex-wife Meg White, 36, who is also a member of The Raconteurs and the White Stripes, will officially release his first solo album on 25 April, 2008. **INTERNET**

Middle of much of his allure lies in his eccentric persona and the mysteries surrounding his life, in the past letting imaginations run wild about his relationship with The Band’s drummer Meg White, who he once claimed was his sister, but was later found to be his ex-wife. Aesthetic presentation has also become sleeky elements/White’s music, which has become known for his trademark black and white colour-block attire and Tim Burton-esque look.

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**Levon Helm attends the 22nd annual WC Handy Awards show in Memphis, in this 24 May, 2001 file photo. **INTERNET

**Musician Levon Helm attends the 22nd annual WC Handy Awards show in Memphis, in this 24 May, 2001 file photo.**

Musician Levon Helm arrives at the 47th annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 1 April, 2012.—INTERNET

**Jack White earns own stripes on solo album “Blunderbuss”**

LOS ANGELES, 21 April—Jack White has earned his own stripes after early reviews of his solo debut album “Blunderbuss” praised the singer for his throwback feel and raw expression. The singer, best known for being one half of the Grammy-winning band The White Stripes, will officially release “Blunderbuss” next week, but a live stream of the album was made available online to listeners this week.

Recorded in Nashville, Tennessee, “Blunderbuss” is the first solo album from White, 36, who also co-member of The Raconteurs and the Dead Weather. The White Stripes, formed by White and his ex-wife Meg White, officially split in 2011 after 14 years together.

Singer and guitarist Jack White of The Raconteurs performs at the Coachella Music Festival in Indio, California on 25 April, 2008. **INTERNET**

**July along the shores of Lake Geneva. Dylan performs on July 8 for the first time here since 1998, with “Chicago Blues” opening for the American legend, now 71, and Bob Dylan in play in Dylan, Van Morrison headline Montreux jazz fest**

CAUX, 21 April—Bob Dylan, Van Morrison and Anita Baker return to the Montreux Jazz Festival for the 46th edition that spawned the famous slogan “Funky” Claude Nobs hopes will go on into the early hours with improved jam sessions. New talents Lena Del Rey and Ed Sheeran, as well as veterans Jane Birkin, Chick Corea, Herbance Hancock and Tony Bennett are also booked at one of Europe’s most prestigious music festivals that runs from 29 June -14 July along the shores of Lake Geneva. Dylan performs on July 8 for the first time here since 1998, with “Chicago Blues” opening for the American legend, now 71, and Bob Dylan in play in Dylan, Van Morrison headline Montreux jazz fest**

**Julianne Hough talks ‘Rock of Ages’ co-star Diego Boneta: ‘He’s beautiful’**

HOLLYWOOD, 21 April—Julianne Hough is singing the praises of her “Rock of Ages” co-star, Diego Boneta and his luminous likeness.

“Le is pretty sexy,” the beautiful blonde told Access Hollywood’s charming Mexican actor at the US Weekly Hollywood Style event in West Hollywood, Calif on Wednesday night. “I remember when he was auditioning for the movie I was like, ‘He’s got the most beautiful eyes and he doesn’t curt his eyelashes!’” and I’m very jealous.

“Is just want to hire him so I can get his secrets about his eyelashes!” she added, laughing.

Beyond his beauty, Julianne says she thinks Diego will quickly rise to heartthrob status since the Adam Shankman-helmed musical hits theaters.

“Le’s such a sweetheart and I think a lot of young girls are gonna fall in love with him,” she said.

Watch Julianne and Diego (alongside Tom Cruise, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Alec Baldwin) in “Rock of Ages” — in theaters on 15 June.—INTERNET

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**Leonard Cohen receives his first-ever Grammy Award**

LOS ANGELES, 13 February—Leonard Cohen received his first-ever Grammy Award for “Live in London: From the Stage of Royal Albert Hall,” and he thanked his fans for introducing him to new audiences.

“I am so humbled and so grateful for the recognition,” said Cohen, who is 75 years old and has been writing and recording music since the 1960s. “This is a great moment for me and my family.”

Cohen’s classic songs like “Hallelujah” and “Suzanne” have been covered by artists from John Cale to Celine Dion, and his music has been featured in films like “The Big Lebowski” and “Shrek.”

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**Tony Bennett is back to his roots on classic Richie hits.**

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**Steve Jobs to step out of colour from crushed beetles**

Starbucks Corp said on its blog that it will stop using a natural, government-approved colouring made from crushed beetles in its strawberry flavouring by late June, bowing to pressure from some vegetarian customers.

The popular coffee chain has been using the extract in its strawberry frappuccinos and smoothies, as well as some desserts like raspberry swirl cake.

“After a thorough, yet fastidious, evaluation, I am pleased to report that we are reformulating the affected products to assure the highest quality possible,” Cliff Burrows, president of Starbucks US, wrote in a blog post.

Instead, the coffeehouse chain said it plans to use lycopene, a natural, tomato-based extract.

Burrows said Starbucks “fell short” of customer expectations. One blogger in March began an online petition to pressure Starbucks to stop the practice.

Ground up cochineal beetles is a commonly used food and Drug Administration-approved food colouring.

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**Lionel Richie ousts Minaj for Billboard top spot**

LOS ANGELES, 21 April—Veteran soul singer Lionel Richie knocked Nicki Minaj off the top spot of the Billboard chart on Wednesday as his country album “Tuskegee” made the rare climb to No 1, three weeks after its release.

It is uncommon for albums to climb to the top position in weeks following their release. Most chart-toppers tend to debut at No 1, but sales for “Tuskegee” remained steady since it entered the chart in late March at No 2.

Richie, 62, changed directions musically and embraced country music with “Tuskegee,” collaborating with country stars such as Blake Shelton, Jason Aldean, Shania Twain and Willie Nelson on classic Richie hits.—**Reuters**

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**Dylan, Van Morrison headline Montreux jazz fest**

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**News Album**

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Cohen’s classic songs like “Hallelujah” and “Suzanne” have been covered by artists from John Cale to Celine Dion, and his music has been featured in films like “The Big Lebowski” and “Shrek.”
Wenger: Arteta does not need surgery
Arsenal boss confirms midfielder will miss rest of season after spraining ankle against Wigan

Mikel Arteta has scored six goals for Arsenal since joining the club from Everton last summer.

LONDON, 21 April — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger says the midfielder does not require surgery. Wenger confirmed that the 30-year-old will miss the rest of the Barclays Premier League campaign with an ankle injury picked up in the early stages of Monday’s defensive Wigan Athletic. Ben Curtis can’t pick his phone to ring to find out what is going on...
**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR TV (22-4-2012) (Sunday)**
- 7:00 am: Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Saydaw
- 7:50 am: Nice and Sweet Song
- 8:40 am: New International News
- 11:00 am: Martyr Song
- 11:30 am: How It’s Works
- 12:00 pm: Lamar Video
- 2:00 pm: Teplay (Health)
- 5:00 pm: Dance Of National Races
- 4:40 pm: Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 7:00 pm: TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm: News
- 8:10 pm: Various Flowers Seminar
- 8:20 pm: News
- 8:40 pm: Myanmarese Movie
- 9:40 pm: The Director

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**Answers for Yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle**
- STUDY
- SOW
- PET
- TAWS
- TRI
- SCIENCE
- WES
- ESCAPE
- ECHANT
- BEACON
- SFEYER
- TUT
- PURE
- DRED
- TINT
- TRASH
- ASIO
- ALA
- ZINC
- KOREA
- TARS
- ARE
- WAST
- RECKLESS
- WAST
- GULLY
- SQUAT
- MAZE
- BLOT
- TO
- PACKAGED
- EAT
- OVER
- CHEWING
- SWEET
- LEMON
- CHINESE
- PINS
- DRUMS
- BASAIN

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**NLM-ner Joke**

**Careful when you wish**

Two men died and went to Heaven. St Peter greeted them, and said “I'm sorry, gentlemen, but your mansions aren't ready yet. Until they are, I can send you back to Earth for a few hours at least, but what do you want to be?”

“Great!” said the first guy. “I want to be an eagle soaring above beautiful scenery!”

“No problem,” replied St. Peter, and POOF! The guy was gone. “And what do you want to be,” St. Peter asked the other guy.

“I'd like to be one cool stud!” was the reply.

“No problem,” replied St. Peter, and POOF! The guy was gone.

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**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

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**Weather forecast for 22nd April, 2012**

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**Members of MCWSC, WAO donate blood**

Yangon, 21 April—

Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisor Committee and Women’s Affairs Organization collectively participated in blood donation at National Blood Bank in Latha Township on 19 April.

Present on the occasion were Patrons of the Region Committee and Organization, Chairpersons of Region, District and Township Associations and Organizations, blood donors, totaling 250. The patrons and responsible persons gave words of encouragement to blood donors and presented refreshments to them.

At the ceremony, 94 blood persons donated blood.

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**Newcastle 3-0 Stoke City:**

Closed made 2-0 with a cool finish four minutes later, but Cabaye’s second, an inch-perfect curling shot 12 minutes after the restart, was the pick of the bunch on an afternoon when the bulk of a crowd of 52,162 headed for home dreaming of Europe.

Newcastle ran out knowing victory would take them into fourth place, for a few hours at least, but perhaps more importantly, give them a healthy advantage over sixth-placed Norwich.

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**Results for Saturday, 21 April, 2012**

- Arsenal 0 - 0 Chelsea
- A.Villa 0 - 0 Sunderland
- Blackburn 2 - 0 Norwich
- Bolton 1 - 1 Swansea
- Fulham 2 - 1 Swansea
- Newcastle 3 - 0 Stoke
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**Newcastle runs past stubborn Blackburn**

Blackburn gave their survival hopes a massive boost with a comfortable victory over lachlustre Norwich side.

Steve Kean’s men moved level on points with QPR, but stay in the relegation zone due to a worse goal difference.

Mauro Formica converted a pin-point Morten Gamst Pedersen cross in the first half, before Junior Hoillet’s superb curling effort in the second. Jonny Howson came closest for Norwich when his long-range strike was tipped over the bar by Paul Robinson.

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**Yohan Cabaye celebrates scoring Newcastle’s first goal.**

The France international scored twice and provided the glorious pass from which striker Papiss Cisse set the tally to 1-0 in 10 games in a stunning individual display.

His contribution helped to claim a sixth successive Barclays Premier League victory for the Magpies which leaves them four points clear of Champions League semi-finalists Chelsea with just four games to play.

The sides meet at Stamford Bridge on May 2 when victory for either could prove decisive.

Alan Pardew’s men were simply too good for Stoke and having gone ahead through Cabaye’s 14th-minute header, never looked back.

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**Newcastle cruised past stubborn Blackburn**

Newcastle ran out knowing victory would take them into fourth place, for a few hours at least, but perhaps more importantly, give them a healthy advantage over sixth-placed Norwich.

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**The New Light of Myanmar**

Sunday, 22 April, 2012

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R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
**Myanmar weightlifting delegation leaves for ROK**

YANGON, 21 April—A delegation of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation comprising Vice-President of MWF U Aung Chit, General Secretary U Myint Swe and medical officer Dr Mya Lay Sein will discharge duties as technical officials at the Asian Weightlifting Championship to be held in conjunction with the Congress of AWF up to 30 April.

The study was coordinated by Harald Pauli, Michael Gottfried, Stefan Dullinger and Georg Grabherr. Increasing species numbers were only found on summits of northern and central Europe. By contrast, species numbers were stagnating or declining at nearly all sites in the Mediterranean region. Harald Pauli from the Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA) programme, which coordinated the study, said, “Our results showing a decline at the Mediterranean sites is worrying because these are the mountains with a very unique flora and a large proportion of their species occur only there and nowhere else on Earth.”

Fed Cup: Williams puts USA 2-0 up in Ukraine

KHARKIV, 21 April—Serena Williams put the United States into the lead with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Lesia Tsurenko today.

Williams, 30, is playing her first Fed Cup for the United States since 2007, when she won a Gold Medal in Beijing.

**Exams to be held for IT development**

YANGON, 21 April—Myanmar Computer Federation, in its drive for IT development in Myanmar, will help ITPEC hold Fundamental IT Engineer Exam and IT Passport Exam on 29 April.

Those who have matriculated with thirt for IT, those with basic IT knowledge and those working in practical field with IT application are recommended to take the exam.

Those wishing to sit for the exam may enquire further information at MCF in Myanmar Infotech in Hline Township, Ph: 652307 and Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, Ph: 652276 and 7308390.—MNA

**Significant Day Temperatures (21-4-2012)**

- Chauk: (46°C)
- NyaungU: (44°C)
- Minbu: (44°C)
- Monywa: (43°C)
- Pakokku: (43°C)

**The NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**

**Respects paid to older persons, fish released in Hpa-an**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—a ceremony to pay respects to older persons took place at Zwagbin Hall in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 17 April.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min and wife Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Aung Kyaw Min, the Chief Justice of the State High Court, the deputy speaker of the State Hluttaw, state ministers and their wives, state, district and township level departmental officials and members of social organizations paid respects and donated gifts to 234 older persons at the age of 85 and above.

A grandpa and grandma gave words of advice. The specialist from Kayin State General Hospital gave health care services to the older persons. After that, they were transported to pagodas in Hpa-an and shown development of the town by car.

The State Chief Minister and party, together with departmental officials and members of social organizations attended the fish releasing ceremony at Kambya Lake in Hpa-an. They released 150,000 fish into the lake.

In the afternoon, the State Chief Minister and party paid homage to abhois of monasteries in Hpa-an and presented offerings to them. At the hall of the state government, they attended the Parittas recitation ceremony.—MNA

**Accelerating climate change exerts strong pressure on Europe’s mountain flora**

SCIENCE DAILY, 21 April — A pan-European study published in Science shows that mountain plants across the continent are moving to higher altitudes. This often results in raised species numbers on mountain tops, when colonizers from lower down start to dwell on the summits. This study, however, also shows that upward shifts can lead to a reduction in species richness. The paper is based on detailed surveys of 66 mountain summits distributed between the north of Europe and the southern Mediterranean Sea. An international research group, led by the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Vienna, mapped all plant species at each site in 2001 and 2008 using the same standardized procedures.