Nay Pyi Taw, 3 May—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Mr. Greg Vines, Chairman of Governing Body of International Labour Organization (ILO) at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of the Hluttaw Complex here at 11:15 am today.

Present at the meeting together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, and members of the Legal Affairs and Special Case Assessment Commission of Pyithu Hluttaw.

They focused on matters related to continued implementation of labour laws enacted by the Pyithu Hluttaw and seeking ways to promote the cooperation between Myanmar and ILO.

MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Mr. Greg Vines, Chairman of Governing Body of International Labour Organization (ILO), and party at meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds discussion with Inter-Parliamentary Union delegation

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 May—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Ms. Norah Babic of Inter-Parliamentary Union at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of the Hluttaw Complex here at 1:30 pm today.

Present at the call together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairman of the committees of Pyithu Hluttaw, secretaries, and members of the commission.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on assessments for providing necessary assistance to the Hluttaws by IPU.—MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives a delegation led by Ms. Norah Babic of Inter-Parliamentary Union at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

KASON, Sacred month of Triple Auspiciousness

Journalists must have right to present diversity of views and stances as well as unity based on national interest

The Miss China Tourism International Contest 2012 kicked off in Guangyuan, a city of southwest China’s Sichuan Province on 1 May. Contestants from 60 countries to compete for the final title and the chance of being image ambassador for the city.

Real Madrid players celebrate after their win over Athletic Bilbao to win the Spanish first division league title at San Mames Stadium in Bilbao.

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Keep our fine tradition
Every country in the world has its own traditions and customs. Myanmar has long been in existence with its own cultures and literature since many centuries. Myanmar with a population of 60 million, which is home to 135 natural races, has a rich history of religion, literature, culture and dress. Today is the age of globalization. With the rapid development of IT, cultures from other countries are penetrating into our country through media. Thanks to the media, we can know what is happening in the world in a short time.

Nowadays, it is impossible for a country to practise closed-door system. We must open the doors to get enough oxygen and light. Opening doors bring the good and the bad things to the country. Due to cultural imperialism, the tradition and cultures of countries in the world are disappearing. We must be well aware of it. Some people's bad behaviors could tarnish the images of Myanmar culture. These days, Myanmar youths, even girls, drink alcohol and beers. These events could be seen a lot during this year Thingyan festival.

Some people say that Thingyan Festival is becoming alcohol drinking festival. These days, it is not a strange thing to see young ladies enjoying beer together with men. It is not a Myanmar tradition. And, some young girls' dress style is a real eyesore. Other countries' dresses would not be suitable for Myanmar. We should imitate good things from other countries but not others.

Due to the recent changes, the country would be likely to receive a flood of tourists soon. So, foreign visitors could have assumed that those behaviors are Myanmar's tradition and looked down on us. Thus, we must show what our tradition is and keep in our minds that we are Myanmar. We should follow the words "Think Globally, Act Locally". Let's keep our fine tradition.

Danger of narcotic drugs educated in Mohnyin district

MOHNYIN, 1 May—"Mohnyin district sees a growing number of trafficking and use of narcotic drugs among local residents and migrant workers who are working in jade and gold mines of Mohnyin district, Kachin State, north of Myanmar," said the Commander of Kachin State Police Force, at the press conference held in Mohnyin District Administration Department on 4 April.

Mohnyin, Mogaung and Phakant Townships and Hoping and Kamaing sub-townships that included in Myitkyina District, are formed as Mohnyin district in 2004. The Police Force also faces difficulties in holding the growing number of prisoners as there are no Myanmar Correctional Department and jails, he added.

A total of 300 prisoners are housed in Phakant Police Station, 140 in Mohnyin and 100 in Mogaung Police stations. Most of them are dealing with narcotic drug cases. General of Religion.

As part of its attempt to accelerate educative works, a number of educative signboards are posted at main areas so as to be aware of danger of narcotic drug.

"NLM 001"

Deputy NPED Minister attends ASEAN Road Show in Japan

NAV Pyi Taw, 3 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw attended the ASEAN Road Show of the ASEAN economic ministers held in Tokyo and Sendai in Japan from 25 to 28 April. At the discussions on tasks implemented for economic recovery after natural disasters, the deputy minister read out the message on rehabilitation tasks being carried out in Myanmar after the natural disasters.

This was followed by a general round of discussions covering the discussions of the Thai Commerce Minister on economic conditions in Thailand after the floods, the Japanese Rehabilitation Permanent Secretary on economic rehabilitation after the earthquakes in eastern Japan, Miyagi Governor Mr Yoshihiko Murai on efforts for economic recovery after the earthquakes in the southern Japan, Professor Fukumari kumita of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asian impact on supply chain network, Director-General Mr Shinya Ejima of Japan Administration Department and jails, he added.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw attended ASEAN Road Show in Sendai and Tokyo of Japan.—MNA

KIA (Kachin) armed group withdraws from battle with No. 1002 BGF (Headquarters) suffering heavy loss

NAV Pyi Taw, 3 May—KIA (Kachin) armed group, to save the face of its declining military prestige, occupy PanwaSub-township, which is a border town, establish their stronghold and seize control over other businesses, raided No. 1002 Border Guard Force (Headquarters) under the command of Directorate of People’s Militia and Frontier Forces near Lupi Village, PanwaSub-township, Kachin State in mass on 27 April.

The commander and members of the Border Guard Force and their families defended the KIA’s offensive with great valor as mobile military columns joined them just in time to repel the KIA attack. 29 April saw 11 battles big and small including counter-attack of the military columns. Suffering heavy losses, members of KIA armed group retreated to the south and west of No. 1002 Border Guard Force (Headquarters).

KIA (Kachin) blasts three bridges in Kachin State

NAV Pyi Taw, 3 May—Kachin armed group has sabotaged transportation facilities in Kachin State, harming the interests of the people living in the state.

A KIA group blasted Dunban Bridge on the Waingmaus-Hسان-Kaрапuity Road was blown off by KIA yesterday, damaging about 26-foot of the floor of the bridge.

Similarly, lamacconcrete bridge on the Waingmaus-Hسان-Kaрапuity Road was blown off by KIA yesterday, damaging about 26-foot of the floor of the bridge.

Besides, they blasted a Bailey bridge near Waraum Village on the Myitkyina– Tanaing Road yesterday.

About two-foot part of the floor of the bridge was damaged and iron beam under the floor was bowed in the blast.

The destructive act of the KIA has hindered the transportation and caused loss to the economy of the local people.—MNA

To view this article in a different form, please visit the Myanma Alinn Daily newspaper online edition. The New Light of Myanmar Friday, 4 May, 2012. PERSPECTIVES Friday, 4 May, 2012

Myanmar, India to promote bilateral relations and cooperation

NAV Pyi Taw, 3 May—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin received Ambassador of the Republic of India to Myanmar Dr Villar Sandraanjan Seshadri at his office, at 8:00 am today. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation.—MNA
Gunmen kill four in Phoenix suburb, commits suicide

GILBERT, 3 May — A gunman, identified by local media as a prominent border militia leader and a reputed neo-Nazi, shot dead four people including a toddler girl in Arizona on Wednesday before apparently committing suicide, police said. The gunman opened fire at a house in Gilbert, a suburb of Phoenix, killingamilitia leader and a reported neo-Nazi, shot dead four people including a toddler girl in Arizona on Wednesday before apparently committing suicide, police said. The gunman opened fire at a house in Gilbert, a suburb of Phoenix, killing a neo-Nazi, who founded the US Border Guard, a militia that hunts for drug traffickers near the Mexican border. The youngest victim, a girl of between 1 and 2 years old, was still alive at the scene, but later died in a hospital, Balafas said. The other dead were two men and two women. Police believe the shooter was among the dead. Police found the bodies of two of the adults outside the home and those of the other two adults and the child inside. Officers recovered two handguns and a shotgun from the scene. However, Balafas said police had been unable to search the house, and confirm the identities of the dead after an unknown liquid was found in two 55-gallon drums outside the house. “Right now, we have a hold up because we have a potential hazardous chemical situation,” Balafas said. Investigators subsequently found some “munitions” in the house, and called in federal officers to deal with the items, Balafas said.

Gunmen fire on Nigeria cattle market, 56 dead

MAIDUGURI/ABUJA, 3 May — Gunmen set off explosives and fired on a cattle market in remote northeastern Nigeria overnight, killing at least 56 people, a nurse who received bodies in the local hospital said on Thursday. The police commissioner put the number of dead at 34. In another attack behind the attack on Wednesday night in the town of Potiskum, in Yobe state, which has been an occasional target for militant Islamist sect Boko Haram, “I have counted 56 bodies at the morgue and I am sure that the death toll could rise in view of the serious nature of injuries sustained,” the nurse at Potiskum hospital, who gave his name as Babangida, said. “The Potiskum mortar is made up of a room and a parlour and I counted the 56 in the parlour only. I didn’t go into the inner room.” Police Commissioner Moses Namiri said security forces had confirmed 54 killed and that Islamists sect Boko Haram was suspected to be behind the attack. “Everybody knows the modus operandi of BH (Boko Haram): they threw explosives behind the attack. The gunfire lasted for almost an hour.” Witness Mama Yusuf, a retired civil servant, said there were dead bodies on the ground, though he could not say how many. “I saw dead bodies all around the place and the emergency services taking people to hospitals,” he said. Boko Haram has been fighting a low-level insurgency for more than two years and has become the main security threat facing Africa’s top oil producer, although it is far from any oil producing facilities. It usually targets police or authority figures, and although civilians have increasingly borne the brunt of its attacks, they are normally targeted for being perceived as enemy of the group, such as Christians, rather than being randomly killed. Sometimes violence in Nigeria, especially in parts of the north or the volatile Middle Belt, is driven from rivalry between soldiers and Islamist sect Boko Haram. The clashes came just after Governor Mario Lopez announced a tougher strategy to combat organized crime groups. "An operation is under way to ensure that calm and security return to the Guasave area," he said, denying that the authorities were losing control of the state in the violence. Twelve people killed in clashes in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 3 May — At least 12 people were killed on Wednesday during clashes between troops and armed drug gangsters in the northern Mexican state of Sinaloa, an official source said. The State Attorney General’s Office said in a statement that the incident occurred on Wednesday morning in the town of Guasave, where 10 suspected gangsters and two soldiers were killed. The military said the gunmen ambushed an army patrol using grenades, automatic weapons and an armored vehicle. Federal state and municipal police reinforced the military operation and repelled the assailants. This is the second clash between soldiers and gangsters in a week in Sinaloa. Last Saturday, 15 people died in the town of Choix, including 13 gunmen, a soldier and a policeman. The clashes came just hours after Governor Mario Lopez announced a tougher strategy to combat organized crime groups. "An operation is under way to ensure that calm and security return to the Guasave area," he said, denying that the authorities were losing control of the state. Violence has escalated in the northeastern state, which is dominated by the Sinaloa cartel, the country’s most powerful drug gang, led by Mexico’s most wanted fugitive, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman. Mexico is plagued by drug-related violence between rival drug cartels and government troops. The cartels have left more than 50,000 dead since President Felipe Calderon launched a “war against organized crimes” in 2006.

President Hu: China, US should break traditional belief of big powers’ conflicts

BEIJING, 3 May — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday called on China and the United States to break the traditional belief that big powers will enter into conflicts, and seek new ways to develop relations between major countries.

Hu made the remarks when addressing the Opening Session of the fourth round of China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogues (S&ED) on Thursday morning in Beijing. “Whatever changes may take place in the world and however much the domestic situations in our two countries may evolve, China and the United States should firmly committed to advancing the cooperative partnership and build a new type of relations between major countries that is reassuring to both peoples from China and the United States and people across the world,” Hu said.

To build such a new type of relations between China and the United States as two major countries, we need to think creatively, he said. Forty years ago, China and the United States made a creative move by issuing the Shanghai Communiqué, said Hu, adding that the Communiqué, which both affirmed the shared views of the two countries and listed their differences truthfully, established the basic principles guiding China-US relations.

Hu said that China and the United States are now in the second decade of the 21st century, and the both sides need to go hand in hand with the times in our thinking, policies and actions. “We should, through creative thinking and concrete steps, prove that the traditional belief that big powers are bound to enter into confrontation and conflicts is wrong and seek new ways of developing relations between major countries in the era of economic globalization,” he said.
Documents reveal clues to ancient weather

Madrid, 3 May—Writings by Arab historians offer a chronology of climatic events in the Middle East from 816 to 1009, when cold waves and snow were normal, researchers say.

A team led by Spanish scientists has interpreted records written in Iraq that chronologically narrate social, political and religious matters but also mention climate. The researchers focused on ancient meteorological notes of the Iraqi City of Baghdad, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology reported on Monday.

“We have recovered an interesting chronology of climatic events, such as droughts, floods, rain, frost, heat and cold waves as well as strong winds during the period between 816-1009 in the area now known as Iraq and Syria” Fernando Dominguez-Castro of the University of Extremadura said.

The period had a high number of cold waves, he said.

“The period between 902 and 944 had a high number if we compare them to current weather data,” he said.

Dominguez-Castro said six snowfalls occurred in the region during that period, while only one snowfall is known to have occurred “in our era,” on 11 Jan 2008.

The documents reveal the cold climatic events in Baghdad were more frequent and more intense during the first half of the 10th century than those of today.

“The Arabic records are very useful for reconstructing the climate in eras and places about which we know very little,” the researchers said.

Mac Flashback attack stole ad revenue

Cupertino, 3 May—The Flashback attack on Mac computers brought criminals $10,000 a day in stolen ad revenue by redirecting clicks from infected systems, US experts say.

Researchers at security software vendor Symantec said attackers behind the Flashback malware were stealing advertising revenue from Apple users by sending clicks from users of infected systems so ad revenue from those clicks went to the cyber-criminals not Google, eWeek.com reported on Tuesday.

“The Flashback ad-clicking component is loaded into Chrome, Firefox and Safari where it can intercept all GET and POST requests from the browser,” Symantec said in a blog post.

“Flashback specifically targets search queries made on Google and, depending on the search query, may redirect users to another page of the attacker’s choosing, where they receive revenue from the click.

Revenue from the intended ad click never reached Google, the researchers said. As many as 700,000 Apple Macs worldwide were infected by the Flashback malware at its height, Symantec said.

The Flashback malware began as a Trojan horse masquerading as an update to Adobe Flash, and then a subsequent version infected unprotected systems that visited a malicious Web site.

“Not much detail has been said about the ad-clicking component, so we will reveal the true motivation behind the malware: the end goal of this Trojan’s revenue generation,” the Symantec Security Response team wrote in the company blog.

Fossilized crane footprints found

Caceres, 3 May—Scientists say 25-million-year-old fossil footprints found in northern Spain were made by a previously unknown species of bird in the crane family.

Based on the footprints found in the La Rioja Region of the country, the species has been named Uvaichnites riojana.

A team led by Blair Hedges, a professor of biology at Penn State University, discovered and named the 24 species of lizards known as skinks, an article in the journal Zootaxa reported.

“Now, one of the smallest groups of lizards in this region of the world has become one of the largest groups,” Hedges said.

We were completely surprised to find what amounts to a new fauna, with co-occurring species and different ecological types.”

These New World skink species are found in the Americas about 18 million years ago from Africa by floating on rafts of vegetation, he said.

“Though long established in the Caribbean, almost all of the identified species now face extinction,” Hedges said, primarily to predation by the mongoose — an invasive predatory mammal introduced by farmers to control rats in sugarcane fields during the late nineteenth century.

“The mongoose is the predator we believe is responsible for many of the species’ close-to-extinction status in the Caribbean,” Hedges said.

Our data show that the mongoose, which was introduced from India in 1872 and spread around the islands over the next three decades, has nearly exterminated this entire reptile fauna, which had gone largely unnoticed by scientists and conservationists until now.”

A sharp decline in skink populations coincided with the introduction of the mongoose, he said.

“By 1900, less than 50 percent of those mongoose islands still had their skinks, and the loss has continued to this day,” Hedges said.

New radiation detector said security boost

Atlanta, 3 May—Scientists at Georgia Tech say they are working on technology that can bolster US security by effectively detecting smuggled radioactive materials.

Terrorists attacks involving nuclear devices or materials are a concern, they said, so enhanced detection capabilities would be welcome at ports, border crossings, airports and elsewhere. “US security personnel have to be on guard against two types of nuclear attack — true nuclear bombs, and devices that seek to harm people by dispersing radioactive material,” principle project investigator Berend Kahn said in a Georgia Tech release on Tuesday.

“Both of these threats can be successfully detected by the right technology,” researchers, using novel materials and nanotechnology techniques to produce improved radiation detection, have developed a device dubbed a Nano-photonic Composite Scintillation Detector. When gamma rays or particles strike a scintillation detector, they create light flashes that are converted to electrical pulses to help identify the radiation.

The prototype Georgia Tech device combines rare earth elements and other materials at the nanoscale for improved sensitivity, accuracy and robustness, researchers said.

Sponge-like material fights jet noise

Tuscaloosa, 3 May—A sponge-like material that can reduce the noise of combustion could make work environments safer and extend the lifetime of equipment, US researchers say.

This technology lessens the noise generated by combustion systems such as those in a jet engine at the source by placing a sponge-like material directly in the flame, University of Alabama mechanical engineer Ajay K Agrawal, who has patented the material, said.

The combustion process in jet engines produces a deafening noise that can also be devastating to the engine, as sound waves can shake the engine and result in mechanical failure, a university release said on Tuesday.

This porous inert material, a foam made of lithium carbide and silicon carbide, which can withstand intense levels of heat and pressure, is placed directly into the flame and acts like a sponge for the noise, Agrawal said.

The foam allows gases to easily flow so combustion is not interrupted, yet is much quieter.

It surrounds the flame, cuts the noise and eliminates the potential for engine instability, he said.

“Experimenting with combustion can be quite noisy and unstable, shaking the whole building, but when you put the foam in place, you can talk to the person next to you. It’s a night and day difference,” Agrawal said.

The foam reduces noise at its source, minimizing the need for bulky and expensive modifications to exhaust equipment, he said.

Caribbean lizards face extinction threat

University Park, 3 May—Twenty-four new species of lizards known as skinks. Researchers say.

A team led by Blair Hedges, a professor of biology at Penn State University, discovered and named the 24 species of lizards known as skinks, an article in the journal Zootaxa reported.

“Now, one of the smallest groups of lizards in this region of the world has become one of the largest groups,” Hedges said.

“Not much detail has been said about the ad-clicking component, so we will reveal the true motivation behind the malware: the end goal of this Trojan’s revenue generation,” the Symantec Security Response team wrote in the company blog.

Sandstone block with fossilized bird footprints.

Internet
Simple device can help babies with tragic heart flaw

**London, 3 May—** A cheap, simple device widely used to monitor blood oxygen can help save newborn babies with congenital heart defects, a study in The Lancet determined on Wednesday. Congenital heart flaps account for between three and 7.5 percent of all infant deaths, but surgery greatly improves the chances of survival, especially if the problem is detected at the earliest stages.

Doctors led by Shakila Thangaratnam of Queen Mary University of London looked at published research and found that the chances of survival, 7.5 percent of all infant deaths, account for between three and four percent of all infant deaths, and that surgery greatly improves the chances of survival, especially if the problem is detected at the earliest stages.

Patients who are diagnosed by echocardiography and find the right treatment are likely to avoid surgery, say the researchers.

**Unemployment rate peaks in eurozone**

**Brussels, 3 May—** The unemployment rate in the 17-member eurozone rose to a record of 9.9 percent in March, the European Union’s data office said on Wednesday. The unemployment rate in the 17-eurozone countries that share the euro peaked at 10.1 percent in March, Eurostat said.

The unemployment rate in the eurozone has risen from 4.7 percent in January 2009. For the 27-member European Union, the unemployment rate, also up for two consecutive months, was 10.2 in March, the EU’s statistics agency said. Eurostat said the number of unemployed has risen by 193,000 in the eurozone and by 169,000 in the European Union. Compared with March 2011, the number of unemployed is up by 2.1 million, and 1.73 million, respectively. The unemployment rate in the region is 4 percent, the Netherlands at 5 percent, Greece at 10 percent, and Germany at 5.6 percent.

The highest unemployment rate is in Spain with a rate of 24.1 percent. In Greece, the rate rose in the month to 21 percent to 21.7 percent.

**Health Tip:**

What constitutes ‘healthy eating’?

When you commit to healthy eating, it means more than choosing fresh vegetables over French fries. It’s changing the way you eat, too.

The American Diabetes Association offers these guidelines for healthy eating:

*Choose a variety of healthy foods, including lean meats, fresh vegetables and fruits, whole grains and non-fat dairy products.
*Limit portion sizes.
*A variety of foods can be part of a healthy diet, including many of the same types of foods that are high in nutrients and fiber.

Eat meals regularly throughout the day at evenly spaced intervals.

Don’t skip any meal.
Tata’s Jaguar Land Rover to invest in UK plant

LONDON, 3 May — Luxury carmaker Jaguar Land Rover, part of Indian group Tata Motors, plans to invest 200 million pounds in a plant in central England, the Daily Telegraph reported on Thursday.

The investment at the factory, which will build Jaguar’s new F-type sports car, is expected to create up to 1,000 jobs and increase its capacity by 50 percent, according to the article.

The newspaper said, without citing sources, that the carmaker is looking to start work on expanding the plant swiftly.

Reuters

107 charged over Medicare fraud in US

WASHINGTON, 3 May — The US authorities have charged 107 doctors, nurses and other medical professionals with Medicare fraud in a nationwide crackdown involving about $25 million, the Justice Department announced on Tuesday.

The takedown by the Medicare Fraud Strike Force operations in seven cities involved the highest amount of false Medicare billings in a single takedown in its history, US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said.

About 59 people in Miami, seven in Baton Rouge, 9 in Houston, 8 in Los Angeles, 22 in Detroit were charged for submitting false billing, for medical services including home health, psychotherapy and infusion therapy, among others.

According to court documents, the defendants were allegedly paid from $1,000 to $10,000 for allowing Medicare to be fraudulently billed.

Reuters

‘Scream’ fetches record $119.9m at NYC auction

NEW YORK, 3 May — One of the art world’s most recognizable images — Edvard Munch’s “The Scream” — sold on Wednesday for a record $119,922,500 at auction in New York City. The 1895 artwork, amid stories of human anxiety, was sold at Sotheby’s. Neither the buyer’s name nor any details about the buyer was released.

The previous record for an artwork sold at auction was $106.5 million for Picasso’s “Nude, Green Leaves, and Bust,” sold by Christie’s in 2010.

In this undated photo provided by Sotheby’s, “The Scream,” Edvard Munch is shown. Reuters

US private company delays launch to space station

WASHINGTON, 3 May — The US private company SpaceX announced on Wednesday that the launch of its Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station has been delayed due to software glitch. At this time, a 5/7 (7 May) launch is unlikely, ”SpaceX announced through its Twitter account. “We will issue a statement as soon as a new launch target is set.”

SpaceX was aiming for a Monday (5 May) launch of its Falcon rocket and Dragon capsule. Issues with the software responsible for controlling the automated spacecraft are assumed to be responsible for the latest delay. The earliest possible launch date would be next Thursday. Otherwise, SpaceX will need to wait until it trains a new crew to the space station on 15 May.

SpaceX aims to be the first private company to send its own spacecraft to the space station on a cargo mission. NASA used to stockpile the space station through the space shuttles, but the fleet was retired last year. The space agency wants commercial providers to take over that role.

Reuters

China to use nano-material to improve power grid safety

BEIJING, 3 May — China will further industrialize the use of a new material developed with the help of nanotechnology to ensure the safety of its power grids, according to a Wednesday statement from the National Centre for Nanoscience and Technology (NCNT).

The NCNT said the material has undergone strict testing and technical evaluations and will be used to solve the problem of flashover, a phenomenon in which energized conductors inadvertently come into contact with other conductors or a grounded surface.

Flashover has been a persistent safety problem in China’s power grids.

Other projects based around the use of the new material are in the research phase and will eventually be applied to China’s power grids on a large scale, the NCNT said.

The material was created in 2009 after three years of research by the NCNT, the Institute of Process Engineering under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the China Electric Power Research Institute.

Xinhua

Eating fish, nuts may lower risk of Alzheimer’s disease

WASHINGTON, 3 May — Eating foods that contain omega-3 fatty acids, such as fish, salad dressing and nuts may be associated with lower blood levels of a protein related to Alzheimer’s disease and memory problems, according to a new study published Wednesday in the online issue of Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

For the study, 1,219 people older than age 65, free of dementia, provided information about their diet for an average of 1.2 years before their blood was tested for the beta-amyloid.

Researchers focused specifically at 10 nutrients, including saturated fatty acids, omega-3 and omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids, monounsaturated fatty acid, vitamin E, vitamin C, beta-carotene, vitamin B12, folate and vitamin D.

The study found that the more omega-3 fatty acids a person took in, the lower their blood beta-amyloid levels were. Consuming one gram of omega-3 per day (equal to approximately half a fillet of salmon per week) more than the average omega-3 consumed by people in the study is associated with 20 to 30 percent lower blood beta-amyloid levels.

Other nutrients were not associated with plasma beta-amyloid levels in the study. The results stayed the same after adjusting for age, education, gender, ethnicity, amount of exercise consumed and whether a participant had the APOE gene, a risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease.

Xinhua
KASON, Sacred month of Triple Auspiciousness

By Ba Thynn

Obeisance to the Omniscient, The Compassionate One.

The All Knowing One, The Supreme Self-Enlightened One.

Kason Festival is one of the most venerable ceremonies celebrated not only in the Burmese but also in other Asian Buddhist nations and those professing Theravada Buddhism, or Path of the Elders namely: Thailand, Laos, Cambodia. The UN also commences the Vesak Day in Buddhist Forum on 15th May of the current year. The UN International Council also held the Vesak Day in Thailand too. It is commonly known as Vesak Festival, representing three most important events in Lord Buddha’s life, the Birth, the Enlightenment and the Parinibbana. However the younger generations seem to regard the Kason as the festival for pouring water at the sacred Banyan Tree or Bodhi Tree (avarajitaj jaya) under whose shade Lord Buddha Gautama attained Supreme Omniscient Self-Enlightenment in 528 B.C. The author surmises that this praying the Guardian Spirit (Rahu Deva) for the gift of a son, and pronouncing it when the queen chanted the mantra ‘Ahum’ during the 6th day of the 7th lunar month as ‘Pritha’. Kason is most revered because three most important events in the Chronicle of Lord Buddha Gautama the Omniscient, Supreme Self-Enlightened One falls on this month of Kason.

Kason is most important for the Buddhists to note that it was on this lunar month of years when Lord Dipankara Buddha delivered a divine prophecy to the hermit Sumeda that he would achieve Supreme Enlightenment as Lord Gautama Buddha, the Fourth Lord Dipankara Buddha. It was customary for the Bodhisatta to receive the offer of alms food and milk rice to the Guardian deva of the tree, in a golden bowl on the full moon day of Kason on the 103rd year of Lord Buddha's life in the year 528 B.C. (Maha Era). The Bodhisatta dreamt five great dreams. He himself interpreted the solemn meaning and concluded that he would certainly attain Buddhahood that very day, the full moon day of Kason.

At daybreak, the morning of the full moon day, the Bodhisatta cleansed himself, turned towards the banyan tree and sat at the foot, facing east, in supreme meditation. Prophetically it was the day that Sujata daughter of a wealthy man from Mahat Sena, the market town of Sene near Urvuela forest grove was to offer the yearly ritual of Bengal rice milk to the Guarni deva of the tree, in a golden bowl. She had been paying homage to the guardian deva since the last twenty seven years when her prayers for a propitious marriage, and gift of a son was fulfilled. Lady Sujata personally prepared 49 morsels and partook of the food in the golden bowl on the day He was to attain Buddhahood. At precisely meal time Sujata approached the Bodhi banyan tree and saw Bodhisatta seated most venerably with holy radiance around his body. She was overjoyed on seeing Bodhisatta, mistook Him to be her guardian deva, and most respectfully offered the choicest meal with the golden bowl, uttering words of supplication. The Bodhisatta scattered the alms of milk rice. He rose from His seat and proceeded to the bank of Anerajjara River. He took bath and sat facing east under the cool shade of a tree and partook of the alms of milk rice. Then making a resolution that if He were to attain Buddhahood that day, may the golden bowl float upstream and sink in a whirlpool. The Bodhisatta realized his supreme wish would be fulfilled that very day so He sat on the full moon day of Kason in the year 103, Maha Era (528 B.C.).

Bodhisatta spent the afternoon under the shade of the tree in meditation. He then proceeded to the Maha Bodhi one of the seven connamats appearing or being born in the precise moment of birth of the Bodhisatta. He contemplated on the best direction to be seated in His final meditation towards supreme fulfillment, attaining Enlightenment, cessation of suffering, ultimate end of the cycles of Samsara and realizing Buddhahood. The Bodhisatta finally chose the direction facing eastward as the most propitious exalted position. On His way towards the Maha Bodhi Tree, He scattered the grass at the base of the holy tree. At that moment a jewelled Aparajita throne appeared from the sacred site. The Bodhisatta seated himself on the invincible throne in cross-legged posture, with the Maha Bodhi Tree as a backdrop, face to the east, steadfast mind, resolute determination and sacred vow never to cease defeat until Buddhahood was attained.

Presently Vanga Maha, or Devaputa Mara the evil god, who had been stalking the Bodhisatta all along, now openly declared war, riding on the huge battle elephant ‘Girimekhala’ leading hordes of followers, determined to defeat the Bodhisatta, attacking Him with all weapons from all directions. Reflecting on noble truth, compassion and determination of the Bodhisatta, the Bodhisatta finally vanquished Mara the evil, before sunset on the full moon day of Vesakha (Kason) in the year 103, Maha Era. Finally at daybreak the Bodhisatta attained Omniscience, Supreme Self-Enlightenment and became Lord Buddha Gautama. He was also revered as the All Knowing, All Compassionate, Sugata, Tathaagata, Samma Sambuddha. The Lord Buddha Maha Bodhi Tree was thus the Lord Buddha attained Enlightenment (avarestiga Religionogus) connotual Maha Bodhi became a sacred relic of worship.

Joyful Solemn Utterance

Lord Gautama Buddha, having attained Omniscience and Supreme Self-Enlightenment and endowed with all the attributes and glories of Buddhahood reflected thus:

“I have been emancipated from the enormous suffering of Samsara. I have achieved the most exalted state of perfectly Self-Enlightened One, teacher of the three worlds, I have achieved a great victory. I am the one only who can liberate all the sentient beings from the shackles of the three worlds by preaching the Dhamma.”

This much exalted reflection Lord Buddha experiencing exulting joy (pit) and uttered two verses. This is known as the first words of Buddha coming in full length of the Suttas with... Anekajjana Javana.

The author humbly supplicates Lord Buddha in rendering the sacred utterance in translated English verse quoted from the ancient text thus:

Phra Buddha Vacana:“Through worldly rounds of births
And deaths, vainly seeking,
I ran my course, accomplished
In search for the builder of the House,
Painful is the birth, again and again.
Oh house builder, thou shall never build,
Again a house, thou shall never build,
All thy rafters are smashed and broken.
The ridge pole is all jagged and jagged.
My mind, its element dissolved.
I have now entered the unconditioned state.
The Third Auspicious Event of Kason Full Moon Day

Lord Buddha Gautama, the Omniscient, Self-Enlightened One attained Buddhahood at the age of 35. During the Supreme Ministry of teachings in Tipitaka namely: Vinaya disciplinary code of conduct; Sutta discourses, and Abhidhamma higher doctrines of philosophy, lasting 45 vassa, Lord Buddha had delivered and admonished innumerable monks and lay disciples into arahathood and delivery from unending rounds of rebirth

Joyful Solemn Utterance (Vacana).”

The Second Auspicious Event of Kason Full Moon Day

On the 90th year of Lord Buddha’s life in this last existence, the Omniscient One traveled slowly and most painfully, due to aging and affliction of diseases, to Kushinagara, the kingdom of Malla dynasty of Kings, where the Compassioned One would enter into Khandha Parinibbana; the cessation of the five aggregates of existence on the fulfillment of nibbana. On arrival at Kushinagara Lord Buddha reached the lotus farm and on the road laid jewel-studded couch set between the two sal trees, Ingpya(pentaecme siamensis), with holy head lying in the easterly direction and facing the northerly direction, never to rise again.

Even in the final hours on the Kason full moon day of the 18th year of Maha Era (438 B.C.), Lord Buddha admonished the Malli Kings and royalty in the early hours of the night. The Compassioned One then delivered sermons to the Sohaatda Herrim to obtain the arahathood, the last to become an arahat in this Buddha’s Sasaana, at midnight. Then in the early hours approaching dawn Lord Buddha delivered the last audience to the assembled Orders of the Sangha.

Lord Buddha, the Supreme Self-Enlightened One gave permission to the thousand of monks in the Sangha assembly, from the arahats to the commons novices, to pose questions, to speak out suspicions, doubts, delusions so that they would be cleared. Such matters touch on discourses, practices, doctrines, morality and teachings in general. The main focus was to dispel remorse for not asked the ‘Question’ or not ‘Insisted’. Exaltingly there was no voice of dissent as complete silence prevailed. For three times the Thagata gave the discourses, and full of compassion, arrived at the first and final concurs, construing the fact that there was no iota of doubt or dissent in His teachings in the entire course of 45 years of Buddha’s Supreme Ministry.

(View page 8)
Journalists must have right to present diversity of views and stances as well as unity based on national interest

On behalf of Union Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win delivers a speech at World Press Freedom Day 2012—MNA

We agree the importance of press freedom, but it alone is not adequate. So, we must set up a legal environment for correctly observing ethical values of the press in exercising press freedom itself. Currently, the government is fulfilling all the requirements. The Information Ministry is drafting media laws in accordance with internationally accepted principles as laid out in the Windhoek Declaration and UNESCO’s Media Development Indicators so that they go well with the country’s objective conditions.

In fact, it is a task whose magnitude goes beyond the capacity of the government. We need the participation of the local press as well as international technical and technological assistance. At this ceremony, I would invite local and foreign journalists and the international community to join hands with the government while acknowledging our media developments and reforms for achieving further progress of our media world in the future.

Next, Secretary-General Dr Lwin Lwin Soe of the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO read out the messages sent by United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and UNESCO Director-General Ms Irina Bokova.

Then, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye Myint gave a speech, saying that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was working to make sure all the citizens are able to enjoy the freedom of expression and access to information. It remains a duty of the government to guarantee freedom of the press.

So, Union Hluttaw made arrangements for media so as to get the news more freely since its 2nd meetings. Heads of Hluttaww has more engagements with media and the undertakings of Hluttaww are being explained. In addition, Hluttaww representatives Hluttaw Affairs Committee pay heed to the news on media as people’s voices. The things that should be implemented are being implemented as quickly as possible. Plans are under way to have easy access to the discussions, resolutions and records of Hluttaww.

Brother and Sister, every 3rd May is to serve as a reminder to governments of the rights to freedom of expression and access to information by the national interest.

Our common ground or in other words the national interest. The expression of genuine democracy, the correct use of democracy according to the constitution.

Next, the deputy minister posed for documentary photo along with the attendees.

Kason, Sacred month of Triple...

(from page 7)

Finally Lord Buddha delivered his last sermon, Paicchima Buddha Vacan. We are passing into Maha Era. The author humbly supplicates to The All Knowing One in rendering the last utterance in translated plain English thus:

“This is my last advice Bhikkus and disciples: All conditioned things Are subject to decay. Strive with mindfulness.”

It was indeed an event of unique significance that these most important episodes in the Chronicles of Lord Gautama Buddha took place most coincidentally on the full moon day of Kason. The first occasion was at the time of birth in the year 68 of Maha Era (563 B.C.). The second occasion was at the time of attainment of Omniscient, Supreme Self-Enlightenment and attainment of Buddhahood in the year 103, Maha Era (528 B.C.). The third and final occasion was on his passing away to Maha Parinibbana in the year 148 Maha Era (483 B.C.).

Parinibbana in the year 148 Maha Era (483 B.C.)

Kason, Sacred month of Triple...

Parinibbana in the year 148 Maha Era (483 B.C.)

Parinibbana in the year 148 Maha Era (483 B.C.)
**Fish released, respects paid in Kawthoung**

Kawthoung, 3 May—The fish releasing and respect paying ceremony was held in Kawthoung Township of Kawthoung District on 17 April, Myanmar New Year Day. The fish releasing ceremony was held at Myoma Jetty of Kawthoung.

At the respect paying ceremony at Sasana Beikman Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before respect paying ceremony at Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before respect paying ceremony at Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before respect paying ceremony at Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before respect paying ceremony at Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before respect paying ceremony at Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before respect paying ceremony at Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before respect paying ceremony at Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before respect paying ceremony at Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before 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Charges of shops raised at Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image

Mandala, 3 May—Maha Muni Buddha Image Board of Trustees of Manadlay announced on 17 April that it will raise collection of charges for the shops around the stairways. In the past, the charges of shops depending on locations increased to K 2000, K 2500, K 3000, K 3500 and K 5000 from K 500, K 600, K 700, K 900 and K 1300. As the Maha Muni Buddha image is one of the images of the nation, maintenance and renovation are being carried out. In so doing, as prices of materials raised year after year, the Board of Trustees decided to collect larger amount of charges three times for the shops.

Keymone

Coord meeting on achieving success in weightlifting sport

President of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation U Thet Lin watches monthly sport trials of weightlifting event.—MWF

YANGON, 3 May—The monthly sports trials of weightlifting sport was held in conjunction with the coordination meeting of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation at its hall in Aung San Stadium, here, on 28 April morning for achieving success in XXVII SEA Games. At first, the sports trials of weightlifting commenced. Altogether 14 men and 11 women weightlifters participated in the sports trials. Next, President of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation U Thet Lin made a speech at the coordination meeting.

Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Aung Soe (Weightlifter Scout, Training and Securing Success Subcomitee) reported on preparations for achieving success in the SEA Games.

Respects paid to older persons in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 3 May—The 12th ceremony to pay respects to older persons of above 75 years was organized by Magway and Bhamo Park families in Ward 6/12 in Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region on 17 April. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Aung Mo Kee, Chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Soe Moe and party, Ward Administrator U Kan Myint, Chairman of Dhammayon Board of Trustees U Tin Lwin and wellwishers donated K 12,000 and gifts worth K 4300 each to 35 older persons.

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED: A ceremony to present certificates was held at Kengtung Pre-Primary School of Social Welfare Department in Shan State (East) for 2011-2012 academic year at the hall of Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee on 8 April. Principal Daw Lwin Lwin now presents certificates to students.—Swe

Tatkon Township FSD opens basic fire fighting course

Tatkon Township FSD opens basic fire fighting course

Nav Pyi Taw, 3 May—The basic fire fighting course No 2/2012 was opened at the hall of Tatkon Township Fire Services Department of Nav Pyi Taw Council Area on 27 April.

First IRS Pencak Silat Championship 5-10 May

YANGON, 3 May—The Myanmar Martial Arts Federation will organize the First Inter-Region/State Pencak Silat Inter-Club Championship 2012 at Theinbyu Gymnasium, here, from 5 to 10 May. Trainees who wish to take part in the championship may enlist at the Myanmar Martial Arts Federation (North/Dagon), Tel: 01-584353, 580712 and 09-43098129, not later than 1 May. It was reported that deserved prizes will be awarded to the winners in the championship.

Trainees for referee course recruited in billiards, snooker sports

YANGON, 3 May—As more referees need in the XXVII SEA Games to be held by Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation of the Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports, the referee course will be conducted at the federation from 14 to 20 May. Those who wish to attend the course may enlist at the federation, not later than 13 May.

Model plot of Palethwe paddy harvested in Pyapon

Pyapon, 3 May—A summer Palethwe paddy on two-acre model plot was harvested in Kyonta Shawkwin Village in Pyapon Township of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region on 20 April. It was attended by the deputy commissioner of Pyapon District, the township administrator, members of the district and township agricultural committees, staff of Township Agriculture Department and Settlement and Land Records Department, village administrators and farmers. After the harvesting works 175 baskets of paddy per acre was produced in dry status.

Agriculture
negotiated solutions of international trade investors. As a WTO member, Montenegro says would send a positive signal to potential the 154th WTO member after an entry protocol never imaging he would nearby Joplin to rebuild, was killed. Cook moved to their teenage daughter his home in rural southwest added protection and peace grants and other financial barely keep up with demand, to entire neighbourhoods. Manufacturers can barely keep up with demand, and some states are offering offers and other financial incentives to help pay for the added protection and peace of mind. Tom Cook didn’t need, convincing. When a 2008 tornado barreled toward his home in rural southwest Missouri, Cook, his wife and their teenage daughter sought refuge in a bathroom. It wasn’t enough. His wife was killed. Cook moved to nearby Joplin to rebuild, never imaging he would confront another monster twister. But he had safe room installed in the garage just in case. On 22 May, Cook and his daughter huddled inside the small steel enclosure while an EF-5 tornado roared outside. They emerged unharmed, although the new house was gone. It was blown away completely—again, he said. The only thing standing was that storm room. The renewed interest in shelters was stirred by last year’s staggering death toll in Joplin, 161 dead. In 2011, only more than 600 people have perished in U.S. twisters. Safe rooms feature thick steel walls and doors that can withstand winds up to 250 mph. They are typically windowless, with no light fixtures and no electricity—just a small, reinforced place to ride out the storm. Costs generally range from $3,500 to $6,000. Sizes vary, but must hold only a few people. They can be bolted to the floor of a garage or custom-fitted to squeeze into a small space, even a closet. Montenegro becomes WTO member BELGRADE, 3 May— Montenegro had become a full member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) authorities of the Balkan country said on Sunday. Montenegro became the 154th WTO member after an entry protocol kicked in on Sunday, said a Press release by the finance ministry. The country has regarded the accession as one of its foreign policy priorities, which it says would send a positive signal to potential investors. As a WTO member, Montenegro must comply with free trade rules and seek negotiated solutions of international trade disputes. Montenegro applied for the WTO in 2004, and signed the entry protocol in December 2011. S Korea’s industrial output growth ploughs in March SEOUL, 3 May— South Korea’s industrial output growth plunged last month due to weak demand at home and abroad caused by high oil prices and economic slowdown in China, a government report showed on Monday. Output in the mining, manufacturing and electricity and gas sectors expanded 0.3 percent in March from a year earlier, sharply down from a 1.4 percent-on-year growth tallied in February, according to Statistics Korea. From a month before, the 100th anniversary of the sinking of Titanic, which went down on 15 April, 1912 after striking an iceberg on its first voyage, from Southampton to New York. Palmer said the new ship would be a tribute to the spirit of the men and women who worked on the Titanic, which sank with the loss of 1,514 passengers and crew. “These people worked produce work that is still marvelled at more than 100 years later and we want that spirit to go on for another 100 years,” he said. Internet More families building their own tornado shelters MONTGOMERY, 3 May—When deadly twisters churned through the South and Midwest in 2011, thousands of people in the killers’ paths had nowhere to go. Now many of those families are taking an unusual extra step to be ready next time: adding tornado shelters to their homes. A year after the storms, sales of small residential shelters known as safe rooms are surging across much of the nation’s tornado-prone hit communities such as Montgomery and Tuscaloosa in Alabama and in Joplin, Mo., where twisters laid waste to entire neighbourhoods. Manufacturers can barely keep up with demand, and some states are offering grants and other financial incentives to help pay for the added protection and peace of mind. Tom Cook didn’t need convincing. When a 2008 tornado barreled toward his home in rural southwest Missouri, Cook, his wife and their teenage daughter sought refuge in a bathroom. It wasn’t enough. His wife was killed. Cook moved to nearby Joplin to rebuild, never imagining he would confront another monster twister. But he had safe room installed in the garage just in case. 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Montenegro becomes WTO member BELGRADE, 3 May— Montenegro had become a full member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), authorities of the Balkan country said on Sunday. Montenegro became the 154th WTO member after an entry protocol kicked in on Sunday, said a Press release by the finance ministry. The country has regarded the accession as one of its foreign policy priorities, which it says would send a positive signal to potential investors. As a WTO member, Montenegro must comply with free trade rules and seek negotiated solutions of international trade disputes. Montenegro applied for the WTO in 2004, and signed the entry protocol in December 2011. S Korea’s industrial output growth ploughs in March SEOUL, 3 May— South Korea’s industrial output growth plunged last month due to weak demand at home and abroad caused by high oil prices and economic slowdown in China, a government report showed on Monday. Output in the mining, manufacturing and electricity and gas sectors expanded 0.3 percent in March from a year earlier, sharply down from a 1.4 percent-on-year growth tallied in February, according to Statistics Korea. From a month before, the 100th anniversary of the sinking of Titanic, which went down on 15 April, 1912 after striking an iceberg on its first voyage, from Southampton to New York. Palmer said the new ship would be a tribute to the spirit of the men and women who worked on the Titanic, which sank with the loss of 1,514 passengers and crew. “These people worked produce work that is still marvelled at more than 100 years later and we want that spirit to go on for another 100 years,” he said. Internet More families building their own tornado shelters MONTGOMERY, 3 May—When deadly twisters churned through the South and Midwest in 2011, thousands of people in the killers’ paths had nowhere to go. Now many of those families are taking an unusual extra step to be ready next time: adding tornado shelters to their homes. A year after the storms, sales of small residential shelters known as safe rooms are surging across much of the nation’s tornado-prone hit communities such as Montgomery and Tuscaloosa in Alabama and in Joplin, Mo., where twisters laid waste to entire neighbourhoods. Manufacturers can barely keep up with demand, and some states are offering...
Foot-and-mouth disease spreads to Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY, 3 May — A UN agency says Egypt’s outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease has reached neighbouring Gaza Strip and could soon spread across the Middle East. The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization said Wednesday the disease was detected in Gaza’s southern border town of Rafah on 19 April.

Juan Labroth, FAO’s chief veterinary officer, says vaccines are in short supply and animal movement must be limited. He says the disease risks spreading to the Gulf, southern and eastern Europe and further. The disease is not a direct threat to humans, but meat and milk from sick animals are unsafe for consumption. Zakaria Kafarna of Gaza’s Agriculture Ministry says the situation is under consumption. He says livestock imports from Egypt have stopped, and officials are vaccinating thousands of animals.

A cow is seen at livestock farm in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on 2 May, 2012.— Internet

Panama, US ink accord on environmental cooperation

PANAMA CITY, 3 May — Panama and the United States signed an accord on environmental cooperation Wednesday as part of a push to promote bilateral trade. Panamanian Minister of Trade and Industry said in a statement. Under the accord, the two countries will develop a work programme through an environmental cooperation commission to reflect their respective priorities, the statement said.

With this agreement, the two sides reiterate their political will to strengthen cooperation in environmental protection and conservation of natural resources in effective interaction, said General Manager of Panama’s Environmental Protection Agency Lucía Chandón, who signed the accord on behalf of Panama. The two sides also agreed to promote public participation in joint environmental activities. Ricardo Quijano, Panamanian trade and industry minister, said the accord was important as the two nations are looking forward to completing the preparation of a Trade Promotion Agreement.

“The opening of trade through the Trade Promotion Agreement must be balanced with environmental conservation, and each country must commit to promoting trade and investment without failing to apply and abide by its domestic environmental legislation,” Quijano said. The Trade Promotion Agreement was respectively ratified by Panama’s National Assembly of Deputies on 13 Dec, 2007 and the US Congress on 12 Oct, 2011.— Xinhua

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Man sold fruit-flavored moonshine

A Florida moonshiner has been arrested for selling customers with fruit-flavored booze, investigators say. Bob Tibbs, 69, was arrested Friday after a two-month undercover investigation, the Orlando Sentinel reported. He was released after posting $5,500 bail.

“Thanks to a tip, this illegal operation was shut down,” Flagler County Sheriff’s Office’s W Fleming said in a statement.

“A lot of people may be surprised that moonshine operations still exist. It does and it is illegal.”

Deputies said they purchased moonshine flavored with apple, blackberry and strawberry as well as the unflavored stuff. Tibbs, who allegedly sold the booze out of his truck on the side of US1, provided a choice of 130- and 150-proof, they said. Tibbs also sold fresh fish. Deputies found a still on his property and broke it up, Fleming said.

Dolphin refuses to leave Calif wetland

A dolphin lingering in a dead-end wetland near Huntington Beach, Calif., refuses to head back to open water, an animal expert said. The dolphins behaviour has baffled Peter Wallerstein, programme director for Southern California’s Marine Animal Rescue.

“He’s not trapped in this area,” Wallerstein told CNN. The dolphin, dubbed Fred by some spectators, appeared healthy and in no danger, though he showed “some signs of being discontented,” he said. “He’s eating fish, sardines,” Wallerstein said. “That’s a good sign.”

The 6-foot common dolphin was first spotted in the Bolsa Chica wetlands. Would-be rescuers on paddle boards nearly coaxed him back into the harbour only to have him reverse course when two other dolphins showed up, Wallerstein said. “As soon as he saw them, he changed his behavior immediately and swam back under the bridge,” Wallerstein said.

“I’ve never seen that type of interaction. He chose to be in here for some reason.” He said another attempt to move the dolphin back to sea would be made on Monday.

Pasdar joins 'Political Animals' cast

Adrian Pasdar

LOS ANGELES, 3 May— USA Network says former “Heroes” castmember Adrian Pasdar has landed a role in “Political Animals,” its Washington-set drama about 10 am, when they shot brush past her outside the Williams Village dorm.

She said in a statement. “We kind of went back to sea would be made on Monday.

Obama, Witherspoon earn top mom honours

DALLAS, 3 May— US first lady Michelle Obama and actress Reese Witherspoon have been named International Mothers of the Year for 2012, according to the Hall of Fame for Women.

Delta Airlines: Safari

THE  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR  Friday, 4  May,  2012

Balfour’s triple homicide trial in Chicago that Jennifer Aniston’s brother and occasionally helped Jason handle his work on TV’s “The Office.” He told the Boulder Daily Camera the bear landed on its back on padding placed below the tree. It was like “Excuse me, pardon me, coming through.” It was running full speed,” she said. “I felt privileged to have the encounter.” Police brought the romp to an end about 10 am, when they shot the bear out of a tree with two tranquillizer darts. The bear brushed past her outside the Williams Village dorm.

The Hollywood Reporter said Pasdar will play Paul Garcetti, who defeated Weaver’s former first lady character, Elaine, in the presidential primary and appointed her secretary of state.

Pasdar also stars on the TV show “The Lying Game.” Topics: Adrian Pasdar, Sigourney Weaver, Ciaran Hinds, Carla Gugino, Ellen Burstyn.

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Witness says Jason Hudson sold drugs

CHICAGO, 3 May— A handyman testified at William Balfour’s triple homicide trial in Chicago that Jennifer Hudson’s slain brother, Jason, made a living selling cocaine.

Balfour is the ex-husband of Jennifer’s sister, Julia. He is charged with the shooting deaths of the sisters’ mother and brother, as well as Julia’s 7-year-old son.

The Chicago Tribune said witness ReginaM Jones told the court Tuesday that Balfour frequently bought cocaine from the singer’s brother and occasionally helped Jason handle customers who came to the Hudson family home to buy drugs.

Jones also said he caught Balfour spying on Julia, who was living with her mother, brother and son, just months before her three family members were killed.

A spokeswoman for the AdvoCare 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway Speedway in Hampton, Georgia on 4 Sept, 2011. 

Ashton Kucher ad is called racist, yanked offline

Los Angeles, 3 May— An online ad featuring Ashton Kutcher as an Indian man has been pulled offline after viewers called it racist.

The images and video for Popchips feature the 34-year-old “Two and a Half Men” star in brown makeup portraying a Bollywood producer named Raj who is “looking for love.” They were removed from YouTube and landed on its back on padding placed below the tree. It was like “Excuse me, pardon me, coming through.” It was running full speed,” she said. “I felt privileged to have the encounter.” Police brought the romp to an end about 10 am, when they shot the bear out of a tree with two tranquillizer darts. The bear brushed past her outside the Williams Village dorm.

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Other videos featuring Kutcher as a stoner, tattooed Southerner and pasty fashionista remain online. A spokeswoman for Popchips says the dating parody featuring the four characters was “created to provoke a few laughs and was never intended to stereotype or offend anyone.”

Actor Ashton Kucher

She added that the company hopes “people can enjoy this in the spirit it was intended.”

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Sol Campbell made 503 appearances during his Premier League career. — Internet

Mayweather shuns trash talking for Cotto bout

LAS VEGAS, 3 May — Floyd Mayweather Jr is renowned almost as much for taunting his opponents outside the ring as for dominating them inside the ropes but he has struck a complimentary tone ahead of Saturday’s fight with Miguel Cotto.

Antonio Margarito in December, was also full of praise. “He’s been a gentleman the whole way with me,” the Puerto Rican said of his opponent. “I’ve been a gentleman with him. That’s the way it should be. You get paid to fight in the ring, not outside the ring.”

The mutual respect reflects the two fighters’ credentials. Mayweather, who won his first title at super featherweight in 1998, is regarded as the world’s best pound-for-pound fighter, with the possible exception of Filipino bo-ho southpaw Manny Pacquiao. Cotto, whose first championship came at super lightweight in 2004, has suffered only two defeats in 39 contests while winning titles in three weight divisions.

Lecco’s midfielder Andrea Bertolacci celebrates after scoring during the Seria A football match between Juventus and Lecco at the Juventus Stadium in Turin. — Internet

TURIN, 3 May — Ten-man Leccese threw a spanner in the Serie A title works as they held Juve to a 1-1 draw on Wednesday, allowing AC Milan to close the gap at the top to just one point. Juv’s seemed to be cruising to victory when a red card for VAR (Video Assistant Referee) put their relegation-threatened opponents reduced to 10 men early in the second half. But Andrea Bertolacci’s goal five minutes from time smashed the draw and allowed Milan, 2-0 winners over Atalanta, to reduce their arrears.

And it was a horror mistake from Juv goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon that gifted Lecco... the Argentinian.— Internet

Gasquet, Wawrinka move into Estoril quarterfinals

OIRAS, 3 May — Richard Gasquet powered past Paolo Lorenzi of Italy on Saturday at the Estoril Open on Wednesday to reach his fifth quarterfinal of the season. The second-seeded Frenchman broke twice in the opening set and three times in the second to close out a commanding performance on clay in 66 minutes. Gasquet, who lost to Novak Djokovic in the 2007 Estoril final, hit 24 winners.

Third-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka recovered from a shaky start to beat Spanish qualifier Ivan Navarro 7-6(5), 6-1. The big-serving Swiss saved break points in his first two service games before breaking his opponent in his third on a double-fault. He broke back immediately and had five set points at one stage in the tiebreaker. Wawrinka overcame his inherent fear of the 20-minute second set, serving out the match in damp and windy conditions at the rain-delayed event. — Internet

France’s Richard Gasquet returns a ball to Paolo Lorenzi during their Estoril Open tennis match on 2 May, 2012 in Oeiras, outside Lisbon.

Lecco’s midfielder Andrea Bertolacci celebrates after scoring during the Seria A football match between Juventus and Lecco at the Juventus Stadium in Turin. — Internet

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Kim Hyun-joong to kick off pop tour in Singapore

Kim Hyun-joong plans to kick off his “2012 Asia Fan Meeting Tour” by high-fiving all 3,000 people expected to turn up — a first for a pop star visiting Singapore.

Event organizer “Running Into The Sun” said the original plan was for Kim to high-five 500 fans selected from the audience but Kim was insisting on high-fiving everyone.

“Know it’s not going to be easy and I hope that even if it is a really short moment of high-five, the fans would know how much I appreciate their effort and support,” he said.

He will meet his fans at the stadium exit after the event ends.

Kimm told The Associated Press on Thursday he’s confident security won’t be an issue.

The tour that starts Friday includes Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Thailand.

Organizers say Kim will high-five everyone at fan events in Hong Kong and Taiwan, too.

Kim is part of the boy band SS501 and became hugely popular across Asia after appearing in the 2009 Korean TV drama “Boys Over Flowers.”

His solo debut album, “Break Down,” was released in 2011. — Internet

Mobile specialist team gives health care service, health talks

YANGON, 3 May — Under the leadership of Yangon Region Health Committee, the mobile health care services for the people and talking about health knowledge was held at the Township People’s Hospital in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 28 April.

A 53-member specialist team led by Medical Superintendent Dr Tin Win Kyaw of North Okkalapa General and Teaching Hospital provided health care services free of charge to the local people of Dagon Myothit (North) Township and gave talks about declining of mortality rate.

The specialist team broaden horizon of over 200 people with health knowledge and gave medical treatment to 397 patients.

Chelsea 0-2 Newcastle:
Cisse’s magic show... striker hits double to floor Blues

LONDON, 3 May — Papiss Cisse had already made a massive impact since arriving here in England in January but two of the finest goals anyone will see this season were his. For 28 April.

As well as regaining Newcastle’s push for a Champions League place in what now looks like a straight fight with Arsenal and Tottenham, the Senegal striker turned an already difficult Champions League final into an altogether more daunting one for Chelsea.

Unless something freakish happens and two of the three sides immediately above them suffer some kind of collapse in their final two games — this was their sixth game in 17 days — and a sequence that continues with Saturday’s FA Cup final and another encounter with Liverpool on Tuesday.

But Chelsea were no match for a Newcastle side keen to recover from the defeat they suffered against Wigan at the weekend. Where Chelsea stumbled Alan Pardew’s side excelled, Cisse’s 13th goal in 12 games — this was their sixth consecutive season.

If John Terry’s red card against Barcelona could yet prove costly, this defeat almost certainly will be.

It would seem harsh to criticise Roberto Di Matteo too much. He made six changes to the side that so convincingly beat QPR on Sunday but he did so because of the fatigue that has developed in his players after such a gruelling sequence of games — this was their sixth game in 17 days — and a sequence that continues with Saturday’s FA Cup final and another encounter with Liverpool on Tuesday.

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Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital opened

Opening of Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee in progress.—MNA

NAV PYI TAW, 3 May—Outstanding red cross members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society were honoured during their get-together conducted here today.

A total of 105 red cross members from regions and states were honoured at the office of Myanmar Red Cross Society in Dekkhinathiri Township.

Speaking at the ceremony to open the get-together, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin praised the outstanding red cross members for their excellent voluntary services during the time when the country was hit by natural disasters such as cyclone Nargis, cyclone Giri and Tahlay earthquake and for the disaster preparedness tasks.

Chairman of MRCS Prof Dr Thar Hla Shwe delivered an address at the opening ceremony. Officials presented certificates to 105 outstanding Red Cross members.—MNA

Outstanding red cross members honoured

Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin delivers a speech at get-together 2012 of outstanding members of MRCS.—MNA

Coelacanths, an ancient group of fishes that were once thought to exist only in fossils, made headlines in 1938 when one of their modern relatives was pulled alive from the ocean. Now coelacanths are making another splash — and University of Alberta researchers are responsible for the discovery.

Lead U of A researcher Andrew Wendruff identified coelacanth fossils that he says are so dramatically different from previous finds, they shatter the theory that coelacanth evolution was stagnant in that their body shape and lifestyle changed little since the origin of the group.

Wendruff says his one-metre-long, fork-tailed coelacanth was one of an “offshoot” lineage that lived 240 million years ago. It fills the gap between the earliest coelacanth fossils dating back 410 million years and the latest fossils dated about 75 million years ago, near the end of the age of dinosaurs.

“Our coelacanth had a forked tail, indicating it was a fast-moving, aggressive predator, which is very different from the shape and movement of all other coelacanths in the fossil record,” said Wendruff.

The fast-swimming coelacanth Relbellatrix chasing smaller species of fishes in the Early Triassic ocean west of Pangaea.—INTERNET

Myanmar selected Taekwondo team leaves for Vietnam

Yangon, 3 May—A nine-member delegation led by Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department General Secretary of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Zaw Win left here by air this afternoon to take part in the 2nd Asian Taekwondo A Class Contest 2012 to be held in Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam from 4 to 11 May.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-President of MTF Daw Khin Sabei Kyi and executives.

Myanmar team comprises Chief Coach Mr Yu Ung Cho, A dancing coach U Thein Khine (Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries), players Hsan Thet Shein, Thaw Zin Han, Chan Mye Aung, Yamin Kay Khine, Chaw Kalya Win and Thet Myat Oo Wai.

Likewise, the nine-member delegation led by Coach U Kyaw Than Oo (YCDC) of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation will leave for Jo Chi Minh City on 9 May to take part in the 20th Asian Taekwondo Championship. The team will comprise players Naing Dway Shein, Francis Oo, Sng Myo Min Thu, Kyaw Myo Tun, Tun Lin Lin, Nway Nway, Hnin Le Yi Mon and Ytet Wai Tun.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (3-5-2012)

Launglon (2.05) inches
Kawkhoun (1.65) inches
Hinthada (1.10) inches
Maubin (0.79) inch