After the call, the Deputy Minister for Information and party held a meeting with the Israeli Ambassador on shooting and broadcasting of sports news on XXVII SEA Games and media sector.

Present at the call together with Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan were Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Director-General U Thein Aung of Myanma Radio and Television, Managing Director U Zaw Min Oo of News and Periodicals Enterprise and officials.

Together with Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, the Israeli Ambassador was accompanied by Chairman of Myanmar-Israel Business Association Mr Doron Landau and entrepreneurs.

**Significant Day Temperatures (7-5-2012)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chauk</td>
<td>43°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monywa</td>
<td>42°C</td>
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<td>Minbu</td>
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The key to successful aging is successful living

Barcelona’s coach Pep Guardiola is tossed in the air by his players after his last match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 5 May, 2012. Outgoing Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola has said on Saturday’s city derby against Espanyol at the Nou Camp is more important than any farewell celebrations that may be planned in his honour.

Ronnie O’Sullivan (L) of England shakes hands with Allister Carter of England before their final of the Betfred.com World Championship at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, the United Kingdom, on 6 May, 2012.
We can prevent water-borne diseases

The extreme temperature during this summer has dried up some ponds in rural areas causing scarcity of drinking water for the people. To help them get the drinking water, departments concerned have taken measures to supply drinking water to the people in those areas and wellwishers have reached out those areas to donate drinking water to them these days.

In this situation people in those areas who depend on ponds for drinking water become vulnerable to the waterborne diseases including diarrhea. It is the dirty water of the ponds and the rivers that causes the waterborne disease among the rural people.

Even if water looks clean, it may not be. It can contain harmful germs that are too small to see and can cause water related diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery, cholera, gastroenteritis and typhoid.

Diarrhea cases can be spread to others for as long as someone has diarrhea, and some infections can be contagious even longer.

Every year many people die from diseases spread by dirty water across the world. These diseases are caused by germs that get in your mouth when you drink dirty water or eat dirty food.

So, to prevent the diseases, people are urged to drink clean water only and take water from a clean and safe source, to wash fruit and vegetables and peel fruits if there is no clean water for washing, don’t urinate or defecate near ponds, wells or rivers, use a latrine if possible and keep animals away from drinking water sources.

If you keep yourself, your home, your family, and your village clean, you can prevent diseases before they start.

Appointment of South African Ambassador agreed on

NAVF TW, 8 May — The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of HE Ms Robina Patricia Marks as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Ms Robina Patricia Marks was born on 21 January, 1963. She holds a MA degree from Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom. Ms Robina Patricia Marks has served as lecturer at Universities in South Africa and the United Kingdom. From 1986 to 1989, she worked as a community organizer for the United Democratic Front in South Africa. From 2001 to 2003, she worked as manager at Lewisham Refugee Network in London. From 2006 to 2011, she joined the Gender Development and Cooperation as chief director.

Ms Robina Patricia Marks will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok. — MNA

Appointment of Nepalese Ambassador agreed on

NAVF TW, 8 May — The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Paras Ghimire as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Paras Ghimire was born on 8 March 1956. He obtained Master’s Degree in Business Administration and Management from Tribhuvan University of Nepal in 1981 and Master’s Degree in International Relations from the University of Paris in 1990. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal in 1983 and has served in various capacities in Nepalese Embassies in India, Japan and Saudi Arabia. Currently, he is serving as the Joint Secretary/Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal. He is married and has one daughter. — MNA
Putin sworn in as Russian President

WASHINGTON, 7 May — President Barack Obama congratulated Francois Hollande on his victory in Sunday’s French presidential election and invited him to the White House this month. Obama phoned Hollande and “indicated that he looks forward to working closely” with him and his government on a “range of shared economic and security challenges,” the White House said in a statement.

Obama congratulates Hollande on France election win

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US secretly released prisoners in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 7 May — The United States has secretly released detainees from a military prison in Afghanistan as part of negotiations with militant groups, the Washington Post reported in its Monday editions. The “strategic release” programme has allowed American officials over the past several years to use prisoners as bargaining chips to reduce violence in restive provinces, it said, citing US officials who said it spoke on condition of anonymity. The freed detainees are often fighters who would not be released under the legal system for military prisoners in Afghanistan.

Taleban stronger than before US troop surge: lawmakers

WASHINGTON, 7 May — The Taleban is stronger now than before President Barack Obama ordered a surge of troops to Afghanistan, two senior US lawmakers said Sunday, contradicting the administration’s assessment of the insurgency: “I think we both say that what we found is the Taleban is stronger,” Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein said at the New York Times Forum on Sunday. “The head of the Taleban has increased his clout, and the Taleban…are no longer who we thought they were before.”

iran does US-Afghan strategic pact

Tehran, 7 May — Iran’s foreign ministry on Sunday denounced a new strategic pact signed between Afghanistan and the United States, saying it would give rise to instability in the neighbouring country. “Iran is concerned about the strategic pact signed between Afghanistan and the US,” ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said in a statement carried by the official IRNA news agency. “Not only will the strategic pact not resolve Afghanistan’s security problems, but it will intensify insecurity and instability in Afghanistan,” he said.

Putin sworn in as Russian President

WASHINGTON, 7 May — Vladimir Putin was sworn in on Monday as Russian President, starting his third term in the Kremlin following the two consecutive terms from 2000 to 2008. The 59-year-old political veteran, who was named Prime Minister from 2008 to 2012, won a resounding victory in the country’s presidential election in March. His inauguration ceremony was held at the Kremlin at noon and was attended by senior officials as well as foreign guests.

Putin has pledged to nominate former President Dmitry Medvedev as Prime Minister in the new government. He is expected to submit the nomination to the Parliament later Monday. — AP/Arkady/

Socialist Hollande ousts Sarkozy as French leader

PARIS, 7 May — Socialist Francois Hollande swept to victory in France’s presidential election on Sunday in a swing to the left at the heart of Europe and promised to start a pushback against German-led austerity policies. Hollande led conservative incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy by 51.3 percent to 48.7 percent with 83 percent of votes counted, according to projections. The Interior Ministry said, bringing the centre-left back to government in Paris after a decade in opposition.

Europe is watching us,” the president-elect said in a victory speech in his constituency of Tulle in central France. “I’m sure that in many European countries there is relief and hope at the idea that austerity does not have to be our only fate.”

Sarkozy, punished for his failure to rein in 10-percent unemployment and for his brash personal style, was the 11th euro zone leader in succession to be swept from power since the currency bloc’s debt crisis began in 2009. The outgoing president conceded defeat within 20 minutes of polls closing, telling supporters he had fought bravely and wished him good luck in such trying times.

“Europe must bear the full responsibility for this defeat,” Sarkozy said, indicating he would withdraw from frontline politics. “My place can no longer be the same. My involvement in the life of my country will be different from now on.” Jubilant Hollande supporters celebrated outside the Elysee Palace and thronged Paris’ Bastille square, where revelers danced the night away in 1981 when Francois Mitterrand became the only previously directly elected Socialist president.

Many waved red flags and some carried roses, the party emblem. — Reuters

Afghan President Hamid Karzai (R) shakes hands with US President Barack Obama after signing a strategic partnership agreement on 1 May at the Presidential Palace in Kabul. Iran’s foreign ministry on Sunday denounced a new strategic pact signed between Afghanistan and the United States, saying it would give rise to instability in the neighbouring country. — Reuters

Nepalese Villagers look at the site of a flash flood at Kharpunasi Village of Kazi District, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Kathmandu, Nepal, on 6 May, 2012. Flash floods from the Seti river in western Nepal swept away dozens of people along with their cattle and houses, officials said. Bodies have been recovered, a police official said. — Reuters

Taliban stronger than before US troop surge: lawmakers

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Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (R) speaks to the media beside his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai (L) during a meeting in Moscow, 7 May, 2012. —Xinhua

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His remarks came after US President Barack Obama on Sunday signed a deal with his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai, cementing post-war ties with Kabul after 2014. The pact foresees the possibility of American forces staying behind to train Afghan forces and pursue the remnants of al-Qaeda but does not commit Washington to specific troop or funding levels for Afghanistan. The deal, reached after months of painstaking negotiations, also states that the US does not seek permanent military bases in Afghanistan.

Mehmanparast said on Sunday the solution to establishing security in Afghanistan was for foreign forces to leave. He also said the pact was a source of “concern” for Iran as “the status of US military bases in Afghanistan is unclear and the security duties of US forces lack transparency.”

Iran regularly criticises the presence of Western forces in Afghanistan, Iraq and in the Arab Gulf countries, calling for their immediate departure.
Scientists “switch off” brain cell death in mice

LONDON, 7 May—Scientists have figured out how to stop brain cell death in mice with brain disease and say their discovery deepens understanding of the mechanisms of human neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

British researchers writing in the journal Nature said they had found a major pathway leading to brain cell death in mice with prion disease, the mouse equivalent of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

They then worked out how to block it, and were able to prevent brain cells from dying, helping the mice live longer.

The finding, described by one expert as “a major breakthrough in understanding what kills neurons”, points to a common mechanism by which brain diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and CJD damage the nerve cells.

In neurodegenerative diseases, proteins “mis-fold” in a various ways, leading to a buildup of misshapen proteins, the researchers explained in the study. These misshapen proteins form the plaques found in the brains of patients with Alzheimer’s and the Lewy bodies found in Parkinson’s disease.

“What’s exciting is the emergence of a common mechanism of brain cell death, across a range of different neurodegenerative disorders, activated by the different misfolded proteins in each disease,” said Giovanni Malfacci, who led the research at the University of Leicester’s toxicology unit.

“The fact that in mice with prion disease we were able to manipulate this mechanism means we can protect the brain cells means we may have a way forward in how we treat other disorders,” she said in a statement about the work. An estimated 18 million people worldwide suffer from Alzheimer’s, and Parkinson’s is thought to affect around one in 100 people over the age of 60. In these diseases, neurons in the brain die, destroying the brain from the inside.

But why the neurons die has remained an unsolved mystery, presenting an obstacle to developing effective treatments and to being able to diagnose the illnesses at early stages when medicines might work better.

Leptin activates a range of different neurodegenerative diseases, neurons in the brain die, destroying the brain from the inside.

For many years, researchers have suspected that a form of brain cell death called apoptosis, or “programmed cell death”, is responsible for nerve-cell death in a number of diseases, including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

However, recent studies have suggested that a related cell death process called “necrosis” — where cells burst and release their contents into the surrounding tissue — may also play a role.

The new research provides the first evidence of a common mechanism underlying neurodegenerative disorders.

The discovery may eventually lead to new treatments for Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease.

Lenovo to launch mobile devices facility in central China

BEIJING, 7 May—Lenovo Group Ltd (0992.HK), the world’s No 2 PC maker by sales, said on Monday that it will invest about 5 billion yuan over the next five years in an integrated mobile devices facility in China to meet rising demand for smartphones and tablet computers.

The Lenovo (Wuhan) Industrial Base, located in the city of Wuhan in central Hubei Province, will carry out research and development, production and sales of mobile devices such as the company’s LePhone smartphones and LePad tablet computers for China and global markets.

The facility is scheduled to begin operations in October 2013, Lenovo said in an emailed statement.

Lenovo, one of China’s best-known consumer brands, has been attempting to make inroads into the booming mobile devices market, where it competes with Apple Inc (AAPL.O), Huawei Technologies Co Ltd (02385.HK) and ZTE Corp (00763.HK).

Lenovo said sales from the industrial base were projected to reach 10 billion yuan by 2014, and to exceed 50 billion yuan within the next five years. In the fiscal third quarter ended December, Lenovo shipped 400,000 tablets globally and 6.5 million handhelds, including smartphone handsets, executives said in March. Lenovo is the No 2 tablet brand in China behind Apple.

Love the new products you get to see at this show, and the opportunity to meet up with people who are leading the way to create the best technology. —IBM

LG Electronics to launch Google TV in US in late May

SEOUL, 7 May—LG Electronics, the world’s No 2 TV maker, plans to launch a home entertainment TV based on Google’s platform in the United States (US) in the week of 21 May, as the South Korean firm seeks to gain a larger share of the emerging Internet TV market, a senior LG executive said Monday.

The second version of Internet TV by Google, which hopes to replicate the success of its Android mobile software in the TV market, comes after its previous model, unveiled in 2010, failed to catch on with consumers.

Google’s attempt to capture the living room

As an important opportunity for expansion, Google has increased its investment in the US. —Google

Buffett would not buy Google, Apple; prefers IBM

OMAHA, (Nebraska), 7 May—Warren Buffett said on Monday he would not buy shares of technology giants Apple Inc (AAPL.O) or Google Inc (GOOG.O) but would not sell International Business Machines Corp (IBM) as a better investment for his company Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N) (BRKb.N).

“I would not be at all surprised to see them be worth a lot more money 10 years from now. I would not sell them if I were to either one of them,” Buffett said about Apple and Google at Berkshire’s annual shareholder meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. “I sure as hell wouldn’t short them either.”

In contrast, Berkshire at year end owned $11.75 billion of IBM stock, its second-largest stock holding. “The chances of being way wrong in IBM are probably less, at least for us, than the chances of being way wrong in Google or Apple,” Buffett said.

Buffett’s revelation in November that he bought IBM stock surprised many investors, given his usual aversion to technology stocks. Even in Berkshire’s annual report, which lists criteria for acquisitions, Buffett said he prefers “simple businesses (if there’s lots of technology, we won’t understand it)”. Buffett controls most of Berkshire’s investment portfolio. He has hired two portfolio managers, Todd Combs and Ted Weschler, to handle some of Berkshire’s investments.
Germans says ready to fight for eurozone growth

BERLIN, 7 May—Germany said Saturday it was prepared to promote growth in the eurozone, a wish dear to Chancellor Angela Merkel’s government.

“Many citizens have lost hope,” Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle told Sunday’s Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. “Chancellor Merkel understands the need to promote growth, and she understands the need for urgent, small steps,” he added.

Germany, the biggest donor to the European Union, is hoping that the eurozone countries will act in concert to promote growth. “We know that Angela Merkel would prefer to see a growth pact as part of the package of reform measures,” Westerwelle said.

But Hollande spokesman Pierre Moscovici told the French newspaper Le Monde that “there is no need for a growth pact.”

Hollande’s position has led to a marked realignment by the European Union’s leaders. “The EU has already been working on plans to encourage growth in countries with high unemployment, like Greece and Spain, with the core question one of how to best promote growth while still reducing excessive debt in Europe,” Kauder argued.

When asked about growth prospects for Greece and Spain, that is not new,” Kauder noted. “The chancellor has already said that the Eurozone can only be saved if we all work together.”

The logo of the European currency Euro stands in front of the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt, western Germany. —INTERNET

The New Light of Myanmar Tuesday, 8 May, 2012

India drug giant Cipla slashes cancer drug prices

NEW DELHI, 7 May—Indian generic drug giant Cipla said Friday it had slashed by up to 76 percent prices of three anti-cancer medicines in what it called a “humanitarian” move and promised to cut the costs of more products.

This initiative of price reduction is a humanitarian approach by Cipla to support cancer patients,” company chairman YK Hamied said.

“This is the beginning — we have done it with three products, we will do it with many more,” Hamied said.

Cipla makes its cancer drugs at its plant in the southern state of Goa that has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

BSE Sensex falls on risk aversion; blue chips hit

MUMBAI, 7 May—Banks and IT stocks are sold off as part of an Asian sell-off of risk. The weaker rupee also weighs on sentiment, as is uncertainty as the Finance Bill containing controversial tax provisions is set to be introduced to the parliament.

Reliance Industries (RELI.NS) and Infosys drop over 2 percent each, among the worst hit blue-chip stocks. Among banking names, State Bank of India falls 3.7 percent, while private lender ICICI Bank loses 2.4 percent.

BSE Sensex Index has fallen over 7 percent in the month of May, compared to 4.7 percent fall in Nifty. Banks has outperformed the index from January to April, gaining 29 percent vs 13.5 percent gain in the Nifty.

People walk past the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) building in Mumbai on 9 January, 2009.—Reuters

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There are 2.5 million cases of cancer diagnosed in India each year, according to the World Health Organization, with most patients receiving inadequate treatment as drugs are priced beyond their reach.

“Business is business, but it has to be linked with one’s social responsibilities,” Hamied said.

The New Light of Myanmar Tuesday, 8 May, 2012

An Indian pharmacist speaks on the phone while standing near a display of Cipla products in Mumbai in 2005. Indian generic drug giant Cipla said Friday it had slashed by up to 76 percent prices of three anti-cancer medicines in what it called a “humanitarian” move and promised to cut the costs of more products.—INTERNET

The impact of this significant proportion of the overall cost of cancer treatment and a reduction in costs can greatly relieve the burden,” Hamied said.

Cipla makes its cancer drugs at its plant in the southern state of Goa that has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.—INTERNET

China, Japan, South Korea to talk about free trade zone

BRUSSELS, 7 May—Trade ministers from China, Japan and South Korea will meet Saturday to talk about a possible trilateral free trade zone, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said on Monday.

The ninth gathering of the three top trade officials, the first to be held in China, followed an agreement last week between China and South Korea to launch negotiations for a bilateral free trade agreement.

The start of the bilateral FTA negotiation between China and South Korea could be a risk for Japan, which has been pushing for a trilateral free trade pact.

“We will exchange views on topics about an investment pact and free trade zone between China, Japan and South Korea, as well as trilateral cooperation under the global and regional framework,” the statement on the Chinese commerce ministry’s website said.

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Merkel invites Holland for early talks

PARIS, 7 May — German Chancellor Angela Merkel invited French President-elect Francois Hollande to visit Berlin as soon as he can. It will be her first meeting with the next French leader that will set the groundwork for a consensus on growth policies vital to the euro zone’s future health. The two leaders will discuss, among other European leaders in congratulating the Socialist Hollande for his election victory over his conservative rival Nicolas Sarkozy, said she was sure the two would work closely together.

Foreign leaders in Berlin, London and Washington who had backed Sarkozy and declined requests to meet Hollande before the election lined up to welcome him to their club.

US President Barack Obama was the first leader from outside Europe to call with congratulations. The White House said he looked forward to working with Hollande on “shared economic and security challenges.” Hollande has long said that his first foreign trip will be to Berlin where he plans to challenge a German-imposed focus on austerity policies by asking that programs be increased to tackle the European budget responsibility. He and Merkel are under pressure to smooth over ideological differences and start their relationship on a firm footing as worries resurface over the euro zone’s debt crisis and the prospect the bloc could tip back into recession.

Forbes China has released annual “Chinese Celebrity 100” list, which ranks the Chinese celebrities who had the most “outstanding” performances in their respective disciplines.

Militants kill nine Pakistani soldiers near border

ISLAMABAD, 7 May — The Pakistani army says militants have ambushed a security checkpoint in a region close to the border with Afghanistan, killing nine soldiers. The army says the attack took place on Sunday in Miran Shah town in North Waziristan, a militant sanctuary frequently targeted by American drones.

Unlike other tribal regions, the military has yet to launch an offensive in North Waziristan. The army statement says militants had been firing on the checkpoint for the past few days before they ambushed it. Miran Shah is home to Islamist terrorists from around the world, and militants fighting American forces in Afghanistan.

US hostage Weinstein appears in Qaeda video

WASHINGTON, 7 May — US hostage Warren Weinstein has appeared in an al-Qaeda video for the first time since he was kidnapped in Pakistan in August last year. According to the US monitoring service SITE, the two minute, 40 second video was posted on jihadist forums by al-Qaeda’s media arm, A-Sahab, on 6 May, 2012 and taken off the Internet by the US Embassy in Kabul.

Those problems including shoddy construction that would lead to a “catastrophic failure” of the building in a car bomb attack were overlooked and waivers to strict State Department building rules were granted as of yet in return for Weinstein’s release.

A new video has emerged of an Australian kidnapped by suspected Muslim extremists in the Philippines, with the foreign office on Monday saying it proved he was still alive in late March. Warren Rodwell, from Sydney, was seized from his home in the southern Philippine city of Sulu on 6 May, 2012. A sustained drought has affected at least 200,000 people, more than 70,000 heads of livestock and damaged 21,000 hectares of crops in six counties in the city of Bais of Guangxi, the regional civil affairs bureau said in a statement on Friday.

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US captive Warren Weinstein tells US President Barack Obama to exchange for Weinstein, al-Qaeda has called for the release from US custody of “Blind Sheikh” Omar Abdel Rahman, Ramzi Yousef and Sayyid Nosair, who are tied to the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

Afghan soldier fires on NATO troops, kills one

KABUL, 7 May — An Afghan soldier killed one US Marine and wounded another before being shot to death in return fire in southern Afghanistan, the latest in a series of attacks against foreigners blamed on government forces working with coalition troops. Sunday’s attack is among nearly 20 this year that have raised the level of mistrust between the US-led coalition and their Afghan partners as NATO gears up to hand over security to local forces ahead of a 2014 deadline for the withdrawal of combat troops.

In another sign of deteriorating security, the US-led States is considering abandoning plans for a consulate in the country’s north because the building chosen was deemed too dangerous to occupy. The US spent $80 million on the consulate, despite glaring security deficiencies in the former hotel, according to a copy of a document released by the US Embassy in Kabul.

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Afghan National Army soldiers raise their national flag next to the French flag during a transition ceremony at Sarobi base on 12 April, 2012. The French army handed the district of Sarobi to the Afghan army as part of the gradual transition of the country’s security to Afghan forces.

Afghans can take over if French troops pull out

KABUL, 7 May — Afghan forces are ready to take responsibility for security in 2013, the Defence Ministry said Monday, reacting to a pledge to withdraw French troops early by president-elect Francois Hollande. “For us as a NATO partner, we have the decisions by individual nations,” ministry spokesman General Mohammad Zahir Azimi told AFP. “And Afghanistan is well prepared to take over all security responsibilities in 2013.”

Hollande made a campaign promise to pull French soldiers out of Afghanistan this year, ending his country’s combat role two years earlier than NATO’s carefully crafted plan to hand security control to Afghans by 2014.

“I believe that, without taking any risks for our troops, it is the right thing to withdraw our combat troops by the end of 2012,” Hollande said last week. A senior Afghan defence official, however, told AFP that a withdrawal would be premature and the pledge appeared to have been aimed at a French audience. “If we have to go to a point of view I think it’s not practical to withdraw troops within what’s left of 2012,” the official said, requesting anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media on the issue. “I think it was rather an election campaign promise than a practical decision. They won’t withdraw this year,” he said.

The 1993 World Trade Centre bombing, al-Qaeda had also demanded the release of the family of Osama bin Laden. The wives and children of the terror group’s late founder were deported from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia last month.
The key to successful aging is successful living

Than Daing Kaung (Meiktila)

With oriental grace, her savoir-vivre is Myanmar. Her name is Daw Khin Khin Win, a national-level athlete-turned-teacher. In most respectful manner, she took Sayamagi Daw Mar Lar Myint to the stage to give a speech.

In everything Myanmar people do, they used to combine loveliness and spontaneity with absolute obsession of Myanmar culture. So it was at the first Respect Paying to Retired Teachers ceremony at No. 3 Middle School, Meiktila where everyone was a welcome guest. Everyone seemed to be a dancer or singer, exultant and excited with spirited enthusiasm in the presence of forty retired teachers.

When the singing ceased, the retired headmistress said, “This is the only occasion for retired teachers get a chance to reach and meet old friends and pupils. For instance Ma Khin Khin Win who is on a visit from Singapore, gets a chance to attend this ceremony. We all teachers are greatly touched by the pupils’ generosity and respect. We treasure every encounter years from now, these ancient heritage events will always come filtered through the haze of memory.

She emphasized the importance of a teacher’s role the Everest of whose ambition is to help his pupils lead an upright, even-tempered and well-balanced life in fair weather or foul. She quoted the words of U Thant who worked as a headmaster at Pan-ta-naw before he became UN Secretary-General. U Thant said, “No pupil of mine committed a crime. They all become decent citizens and I am satisfied.”

Then Daw Mar Lar Myint said, “You elderly teachers, you may be young than you think, n’est ce pas. I’ll tell you how to ride the big surf, this is aging. Here is the epitome.”

There is no difference that occurs because of the passage of a certain year. There are no problems of we graybeards, except those who let themselves imposed by their grandchildren. Most illness and deterioration depend on environment and therefore can be modified by changing and controlling the environment.

Do not use the out-moded, fallacious word, “problems of aging.”

The better term would be “opportunities of aging.”

An elderly person is a living history. Life is always a Daniel, whoever works hard succeeds. A man’s senior years are inevitably and exactly the sum total of what has gone before; they can be a time of continued growth in wisdom, experience and, achievements. So what is aging problem—elimination plan? Successful living—that is the key.

Corrigendum

Please read “according to contact,” instead of “according to the contact” and please read “authority concerned” instead of “through discussions” instead of “through discussions” appeared in the story entitled “Myanmar, Thai discuss Myanmar labour issues in Thailand” on Page 7 of the 3-5-2012 issue of the New Light of Myanmar. Error is regretted.— Ed

WORKSHOP HELD: The workshop on prevention against human trafficking in person was held at the meeting hall of Loikaw Township General Administration Department on 30 April. Deputy Commissioner U Nai Win Maung of District GAD speaking at the workshop—Mano Aen

WORKSHOP HELD: The workshop on prevention against human trafficking in person was held at the meeting hall of Loikaw Township General Administration Department on 30 April. Deputy Commissioner U Nai Win Maung of District GAD speaking at the workshop—Mano Aen

Fire kills one in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 7 May—A fire broke out in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region at 7.40 am on 5 May, leaving one death.

Due to overheat, the fire started from cooking of rice cooker at the house of U Chit Toe at No 78-A on Toungoo Road in Ward 19 of Hlinethaya Township, according to the Yangon Region Fire Services Department.

At 7.50 am when the information was received, 75 members of Fire Services Department and 63 auxiliary firebrigade members together with local people put out the fire with the use of three fire engines from Hlinethaya Township, two fire engines from Insein Township, one each from Shwepyitha, Htilin, Mawraw and Kyimyinda Townships and two fire engines from FSD (Head Office), two supporting vehicles and two management vehicles, and died out the fire at 8.23 am.

Blood donation marks 66th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day

MANDALAY, 7 May—In commemoration of the 66th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day, the blood donation ceremony was held at Mandalay Region Fire Services Department at the corner of 29th and 81st Streets in Chamayezhahan Township on 1 May morning. A total of 280 members of Fire Services Department and Auxiliary Fire Brigade of Mandalay District and 39 family members donated blood.

Director of No 1 Region and State Fire Services Departments U Aung Kyaw Myint, Head of Mandalay Region FSD U Kyaw Toe, district and township officials gave words of encouragement to the blood donors.

In-chARGE of the National Fire Services Department U Kyi Toe, district and township officials gave words of encouragement to the blood donors.

Information for trafficking in person

The government is carrying out prevention against trafficking in person with momentum.

In so doing, telephone numbers are announced in connections with authorities concerned for enabling the people to actively participate in trafficking in persons. These telephone numbers are 067-412555 and 067-412666 in Nay Pyi Taw, 09-4955566 in Maw, 09-4955777 in Mandalay and 09-4955888 and 09-4955999 in Yangon.

Thudhamma public rest houses renovated in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 7 May—Merit sharing ceremony was held on 21 April for completion of 19 Thudhamma public rest houses at the foot of Mandalay Hill in Upokaw Ward in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay with the contribution of wellwishers under the leadership of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library in Ministry of Culture on 21 April.

In 1226 Myanmar Era (1964), King Mindon built 19 public rest houses between Yadanabansan Monastery and Kyauktawgyi Pagoda and 15 rest houses along the most, totalling 33.

The public rest houses can be used as religious examinations, shelters for those who keep Sabath during the Buddhist retreat period and public relaxation.

In the colonial period, a total of 14 public rest houses were destroyed. Six of 19 remaining houses were renovated with the contribution of K 25 million by the State and 13 houses with K 45.88 million by the people. A total of 150 paintings depicting Jatakas were maintained by the State through modern methods spending K 4.5 million. A plan is underway to maintain more 339 paintings. Thus, a total of 19 public rest houses will be decorated with paintings as open air art gallery.

DISTRICT NEWS

PYAPON, 7 May—the model plot of Palethwe hybrid paddy was harvested at the farmland of farmer U Khin Win of Teteku Village-tract in Kyaiklat Township in Pyapon District in Ayeyarwady Region at 9 am on 19 April.

The harvesting of paddy was viewed by Head of Kyaiklat Township Agriculture Department U Thein Maung Oo, Head of Kyaiklat District Agriculture Department U Mya Aye Aung, Manager of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading U Kyaw Soe Yi, Managing Director U Maung Maung Toe of Leading Company of Kyaiklat Township, staff members of Agriculture Department and Settlement and Land Records Department, village administrators and local farmers.

After the harvesting work, the local farmers produced 185.36 baskets of paddy in dry status.

Those wishing to take parade paddy strain and cultivation techniques may contact Agriculture Department.

Kyaiklat, 7 May—The plot model of Palethwe hybrid paddy was harvested at the farmland of farmer U Khin Win of Teteku Village-tract in Kyaiklat Township in Pyapon District in Ayeyarwady Region at 9 am on 19 April.

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Palettwe paddy strain harvested on model plot in Kyaiklat Township

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Those wishing to take parade paddy strain and cultivation techniques may contact Agriculture Department.
E-government promotion training course, e-mail, Internet course open

**Nav Pyi Taw, 7 May—** A ceremony to open e-government promotion training course and e-mail and Internet course was held at the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs here this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun. A total of 72 trainees from various ministries are attending the four-week courses.

Next, the Union Minister attended a coordination meeting on GSM/UMTS mobile extension project. Speaking at the meeting, he said GSM/UMTS mobile project started with the aim of ensuring the people in states and regions across the country use mobile phones easily and conveniently and increasing the use of mobiles in rural areas proportionately.

Mobile phones are now on sale at a reduced price as the first phase activities of the first year project have been carried out successfully in collaboration with private companies. He then spoke of the need to be careful about the costs of the project in carrying out the remaining stages. He also stressed the need to install mobiles without delay.

**MNA**

YANGON, 7 May—A ceremony to launch Computer and English Proficiency Training Course Level-2 for staff of departments under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at Social Welfare Training School of Social Welfare Department in Kyaiawkaw Pagoda Road, and English Proficiency Course (5/2012) at Kyanithar Hall of Fire Brigade (Headquarters), Mayangon Township this morning, attended by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe who made opening speech.

**Level-2 Computer Proficiency Training Course** was attended by 20 trainees who were the outstanding students of Level 1 CPTC. The eight-week English Proficiency Course is being carried out successfully in the first phase.

**MNA**

Establishment of political parties scrutinized, passed

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**MNA**

Initiative Regional Forum to enhance Collaborative Activities for Establishment of Ancient Cities Network of ASEAN held

**YANGON, 7 May—** The Initiative Regional Forum to enhance Collaborative Activities for Establishment of Ancient Cities Network of ASEAN, Phase One sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and the National Committee for ASEAN Culture and Information took place at the Sedona Hotel here this morning with an address by Chairman of the National Committee for ASEAN Culture and Information Director-General of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department U Kyaw Lwin Oo.

U SanWin of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department explained the ancient cities of Myanmar and the ASEAN nations to those present, discussed proposed plans on cultural cooperation for establishment of ancient cities network of ASEAN.

**MNA**

Armament ceremony of people’s militia held in Tarlawgyi Village, Hsinbo Sub-township, Kachin State

**Nav Pyi Taw, 7 May—** An armament ceremony of people’s militia in Tarlawgyi Village, Hsinbo Sub-township, Kachin State, was held at Maha Wizaya Ordination Hall of Dekkhina Rama Monastery yesterday morning. Deputy Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Aung Myat Oo addressed the ceremony and armed the people’s militia with weapons and ammunitions and provided cash assistance.

Present on the occasion were officials from local battalions, commissioners and administrators, 200 troops of people’s militia, 50 members of KIA (Kachin) armed group which has exchanged arms for peace, and 1500 local people.

At the request of 50 troops led by U Kyaw Hsan of the Kachin State government, 1500 local people who are strongly opposed to the KIA (Kachin) armed group sticking to destructive acts and killing innocent service personnel and local people, ignoring the goodwill of the government and peace aspired by local national people and of the village people who are strongly opposed to the KIA (Kachin) armed group, Directorate of People’s Militia and Frontier Forces in coordination with the Kachin State government, the armament ceremony was organized.

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**MNA**
Tachilek Township Writers Association formed

TACHILEK, 7 May—The plenary meeting of Tachilek Township Writers Association of Shan State was held at the hall of District Information and Public Relations Department in Tachilek on 21 April afternoon.

Chairman of the association U Hein Min (Min Aye Nyein-Zay) explained the decisions of emergency conference of the Writers and Journalists Association (Central). Secretary U Maung Kyi (Aung Swe Nyin) read the annual report. Treasurer IP San Thein (Maung Po San-Daya) as Treasurer.

UMFCCI officials meet Brazilian entrepreneurs

NAYPYIDAW, 7 May—Deputy Director of Foreign Economic Relations Department in Information and Public Association of Shan State was held at the hall of District Information and Public Relations Department in Tachilek on 21 April afternoon.

Chairman of the

Bookkeeping course kicks off in Magway

MAWAY, 7 May—The bookkeeping course No. 1/2012-2013 was opened at the hall of Cooperative Training School in Magway of Magway Region on 3 May morning.

Deputy Director of Magway Region Cooperative Department U Kyaw Mo Tint delivered an address.

The training period lasts up to 15 May. Myanmar Alin

Books, publications donated to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (100-bed)

NAYPYIDAW, 7 May—With the aim of broadening the horizons of the patients undergoing medical treatment at the hospital, News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information donated 327 books and 1344 copies of publications to the library of Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (100-bed) at the office of the medical superintendent of the hospital on 26 April.

Manager (Admin) U Zaw Min of News and Periodicals Enterprise presented the books to Medical Superintendent Dr Phyu Phyu, hospital administrator Dr Kyaw Myint and matron Daw Tin Paik. Kyemon

Bhamo District observes Workers’ Day

DHAMO, 7 May—A ceremony to mark the Workers’ Day was held at the City Hall in Bhamo of Kachin State on 1 May morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Tay Zar Aung of Bhamo Township General Administration Department read the message for Workers’ Day sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.

At the ceremony, employee representative U Soe Win and employer representative U Than Htay talked about labour law and rights of workers. Myanmar Alin

Respects paid to retired teachers

YANGON, 7 May—Older students from 1995 to 2010 of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region held the ceremony to pay respects to retired teachers at Thebye hall of the school on 29 April morning. It was attended by 75 retired teachers and 133 in-service teachers, totalling 208.

After the respect paying ceremony, retired teachers gave words of encouragement to the students.

The students donated three computers to the school—San San Kyi-Taing and 208.

Myanmar Medical Association to conduct Strengthening CME

YANGON, 7 May—Strengthening CME (SCME) Plan of Society of General Practitioners of Myanmar Medical Association will conduct the Skill based Strengthening CME (SCME) for doctors who graduated after 2007 at the halls of Yangon and Mandalay Medical Associations.

Those wishing to attend the course may enlist at the hall of the association, beginning 8 May during office hours.

For further information, interested persons may dial 01-378863, 394141, 380899 and 388097 (Ext 116), 095003878 and 095137635 in Yangon and 02-64866, 092001586.

Kawlin Township Writers Association formed

KAWLIN, 7 May—The first coordination meeting of Kawlin Township Writers Association of Sagaing Region was held at the office of the association on 4 May.

Chairman of U Khin Maung Nyein (Myan Gon Hsau) discussed scrutiny and recommendation for new members of the association, dutiful undertakings of new executives assigned by the central association and abiding by the prescribed rules and disciplines.

After that, he replied to discussions of those present.

MLF invites cash, book donations

The Botahtaung Township Nursing Home under the leadership of Yesagyo Township General Administration Department of Magway Region and supervision of Township Administration Department of Magway Region on 3 May.

At the ceremony, employee representative U Soe Win and employer representative U Than Htay talked about labour law and rights of workers. Myanmar Alin

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Sender

Date

11/8/2009, 9:03 PM
**Job disability a headache for recovery**

WASHINGTON, 5 May — Monica Soltes was excited 10 years ago to leave Merrill Lynch and start her own financial planning business in San Diego. After she fell off the stairs at her cousin’s cottage and broke her elbow, her dreams unraveled. The surgery that confined her to bed, Soltes was diagnosed with a hormonal disease that is weakening her bones. She also ran out of money, signed up for disability benefits and has been unable to work again. The 47-year-old from Michigan is among the 8.7 million American workers on the US disability rolls, an important part of the social safety net. 

As the recession began in 2007, she has been joined by a record number of people seeking disability benefits, raising questions about the programme’s solvency and casting doubt over future prospects for US economic growth. Applicants soared to a record high of 2.94 million in 2010, and have held above 18 per 1,000 workers in the workforce for at least four years. That’s far higher than in previous recessions. 

“There are serious concerns that this increase in disability benefits is a type of ‘hidden unemployment,’” said Richard Burkhauser, a professor of economics at Cornell University. 

Even though only 35 percent of applicants are awarded disability, those receiving disability benefits now account for 5.6 percent of the working-age population, up from about 4.5 percent in 2007. At this rate of growth, overall size of the labour force and weakening the US economy’s growth prospects. Rising gross domestic product (GDP) depends upon a growing workforce and rising productivity. Since the recession began, the share of Americans actively looking for work, known as the labor participation rate, has fallen to 61.6 percent from 66 percent in 2007. —Reuters

**Man found dead at Churchill Downs worked there** 

LOUISVILLE, 5 May — Authorities say a man who may have been killed and whose body was found early Sunday in a barn at Churchill Downs hours after the Kentucky Derby worked at the racetrack. The victim was identified on Sunday as 48-year-old Adam Faban Perez, a Guatemala native, according to Jo-Ann Farmer, chief deputy coroner for Jefferson County. Farmer said he was identified by his 19-year-old son, who also works at the track. “There’s a suspicion of foul play,” Farmer said Sunday evening. An autopsy is scheduled for Monday. Louisville Metro Police say the death is being investigated as a homicide, but that there appears to be no connection to the track. “At this point we don’t have anything pointing to the fact that this had any association with Churchill Downs or the Derby itself,” said Alicia Smiley, spokeswoman for Louisville Metro Police. “We are still investigating at the stables and at the barn.” Smiley said that the victim “did sustain injuries that lead us to believe he was involved in some type of altercation.” “Our investigation is ongoing as to why he would have specifically been at this location,” Smiley said. She said on Sunday evening that police “still do not have suspect information at this point.” Farmer said the victim resided at the track’s quarters for workers, but at a different location than where he was found. Churchill Downs security called police at 4:50 am EDT, Smiley said. The body was found in a barn used by Louisville trainer Angel Montano Sr. Montano did not have a horse running Saturday either in the undercard or the Derby, which saw a record attendance of more than 165,000. —Reuters

**Authorities try to ID bodies, search for mom, kids** 

WHITEVILLE, 7 May — Authorities were working on Sunday to identify two bodies found at a Mississippi residence connected with a man suspected of abducting a woman and her three young daughters. The FBI has said two bodies were found over the weekend at a home connected to 35-year-old Adam Mayes in Guntown, Miss, but agents have released few other details. Authorities believe that Mayes abducted the woman, Jo Ann Bain, and her three daughters, ages 8 to 14. On Sunday, forensic scientists with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation searched the garage and backyard at the Hardeman County, Tenn home where the bodies were found. 

An Associated Press reporter saw the agents searching before being told to leave the street where the home was located. Bain’s husband declined to comment on Sunday. Meanwhile, a Bain family friend said on Sunday that the woman and her daughters were found living in Arizona because the two of the girls had asthma. Linda Kirkland, a cook at the Country Cafe in Whiteville, Tenn, said that the Bains and their daughters were back in the Whiteville area taking care of some business after a death in the family. 

Teens accused of fatally stabbing 4-year-old cousin

INDIANAPOLIS, 7 May — A 14-year-old girl found covered in blood on an Indianapolis street was charged on Sunday with murdering her 4-year-old cousin, police said. Indianapolis police accuse the 14-year-old girl of stabbing to death her cousin, Leon Thomas III. They also killed a 7-year-old sister and his grandparents were also present, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police spokesman Kendale Adams said in a statement. Police did not identify the girl because she is a juvenile. Authorities did not release any additional details about the case, and cause and circumstances were called to the apartment and tried to revive the child, but he was later pronounced dead at a local hospital, police said. The boy’s 14-year-old cousin was found on the street a few blocks away, covered in blood, Adams said. Police filed a preliminary murder charge against the girl, but the final decision about how her case will be handled rests with the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office.

**Teen accused of fatally stabbing 4-year-old cousin**

**Couple in Illinois Ponzi scheme caught in Arizona**

TOMS LAKE, 7 May — An Illinois couple who spent a dozen years on the run after fleeing a conviction for running a Ponzi scheme has been captured in a small community west of Phoenix, the US Marshals Service said on Sunday. Nelson Grant Hallahan, 65, and wife Janet Hallahan, 54, were arrested by deputy marshals Saturday afternoon in Tonopah, a desert community 50 miles west of Phoenix. Matt Hershey, a supervisory deputy US Marshal, said the Hallahans were living apart and were arrested at separate homes. The agency said it received a tip about their location after they were featured on “America’s Most Wanted” the previous night. The couple pleaded guilty in Illinois federal court to bank and mail fraud conspiracy charges and money laundering. They didn’t show up for their sentencing and have been fugitives ever since. The Hallahans lived in Peoria, Ill, and have targeted family, friends and elderly victims by promising significant returns on investments. They also defrauded investors by selling interests in a tanning salon they later sold without telling investors. They were actually running a Ponzi scheme, repaying earlier investors with proceeds from new ones. The couple used the money they stole to live a lavish lifestyle, buying yachts, luxury vehicles, designer clothes and jewelry, according to the Marshals Service. According to a profile on the AMW website, Nelson Hallahan was a successful life insurance salesman. Janet Hallahan was his assistant and secretary, and the couple married in 1988. —Reuters

This combo made from undated photos provided by the US Marshal’s service shows Janet Hallahan, left, and her husband, Nelson Grant Hallahan. —Internet
Two dead, 19 wounded in Philippine blast

ZAMBOANGA CITY, 7 May—Two people were killed and 19 others injured after an unidentified man tossed an explosive device into a crowded tourist area in a southern Philippine City late on Saturday, police said. After the explosion in Iligan, the man boarded a van that sped away, city police chief Celso Regencia said, citing witnesses. “The apparent target was El Centro,” he told AFP, referring to an area in the port city popular for its restaurants, bars and night clubs. The motive of the attack and the motive of explosive used were not immediately clear Regencia added. He said police recovered the body of a 20-year-old male victim at the site, while a 20-year-old cousin was later pronounced dead at a government hospital. Three city hospitals contacted by AFP said they were treating 19 others injured in the attack. Iligan lies on the north coast of Mindanao island. The region has been mired in a decades-old Muslim insurgency as well as bombings and kidnappings by Abu Sayyaf, a group founded with seed money from late al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden in the 1990s. 

Fijians warned of expected extra big tides during perigee moon

SOVA, 7 May—It’ll be a full moon tonight, which will cause the extra high tides in the Pacific including Fiji, local media reported here on Sunday. According to the report, Fijian people living near low lying areas have been warned to be extra vigilant on Monday and Tuesday as the Pacific tide charts show the full moon will cause extra high tides at the time. In fact it’ll be a super moon, 14 percent bigger and 30 percent brighter than other full moons this year, says the report, adding it’s known officially as a perigee moon, when the moon’s closest to earth. Astronomers say the swollen orb rising in the east at sunset appears super large and extra bright. According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)’s calculations, when the moon will hit your eye like a big pizza pie it’s “super moon” time. May’s full moon will reach perigee — the closest point to Earth in its elliptical pattern — and “only one minute later, the moon will line up with the Earth and the Sun, and we’ll see a supermoon.”

Indian government presses India to cut Iran oil imports

NEW DELHI, 7 May—US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday urged India to further cut its imports of Iranian oil, saying that the Islamic republic posed a major threat if it developed nuclear weapons. Clinton commended India for lowering its purchases last year, says it has cut Iranian imports “substantially” despite initially insisting it would not join US and European-led efforts to cut off Teheran’s oil revenues. Faced with critical questions from students, Clinton stressed that the United States had no quarrel with the Iranian people and voiced hope for a peaceful solution, with new talks coming up between Iran and major powers.

Elephant tusks seized in Kenya, suspected poacher killed

NARODISH, 7 May—Kenya’s wildlife authority said it recovered elephant tusks and shot dead a suspected poacher in the coastal region of Tana River on Saturday. Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) Corporate Affairs Manager Paul Udoto said the shooting took place as its rangers were involved in two armed encounters with groups of suspected poachers in Tana River County. Udoto said in a statement released in Nairobi that the suspected poacher was shot dead and an AK-47 rifle recovered in the first incident at Dakadima area. “Further, 44 rounds of ammunition and two magazines were also recovered. Five members of the gang escaped with possible injuries,” he said. According to Udoto, a six-man gang engaged KWS rangers in a fierce gun fight in the second incident at Ananomu area near Garsen. “Following this encounter, 28 rounds of ammunition, three magazines of AK-47 rifle, and two tusks of a mature elephant were recovered. All the six gang fled with injuries and a follow up on the same gang is still on,” he said. Udoto said the two gangs have been tracked for the last three days and apprehended many of the public in the general area around Tana River to report any suspicious person with gunshot wounds to report to the nearest police or KWS. “Members of the public are advised to be on the alert since this gang that escaped is still armed and dangerous,” Udoto said. He said the wildlife body is committed more than ever before to end all poaching and illegal possession of illegal wildlife products.

Roadside bomb kills five Afghan police, wounds one

ALASABAR, 7 May—Five personnel of Afghan Border Police were killed and another sustained injuries as a roadside bombing in Nangarhar Province 120 km east of Capital Kabul on Friday night, a police officer said on Saturday. “Our police was on routine patrol in Dur Baba District on Saturday night when their vehicle ran over a mine as a result five border policemen were martyred and another injured,” Wali Khan the commander of border police in the province told Xinhua.

Barcelona’s coach Pep Guardiola is tossed in the air by his players after his last match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 5 May, 2012. Outgoing Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola has said on Saturday’s city derby against Espanyol at the Nou Camp is more important than any farewell celebrations that may be planned in his honour.

Afghan police, wounds one

Three dead, 19 injured in two expressway accidents in SW China

KUNMING, 7 May—Twelve people were dead and 19 others injured in two accidents on an expressway in southwest China’s Yunnan Province on Saturday. Among them, three were killed and another two injured as a truck registered in Jiangxi Province rear-ended a car at 4:30 pm on the section of Yiliang county on the expressway from Shantou to Kunming, said Li Zhonghai, an local traffic police officer. The injured were rushed to hospital for treatment, and it was unknown yet whether their injuries were life-threatening or not, he said. The causes of the accidents are being investigated.

Shankun Expressway in Yiliang County, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, late 5 May, 2012. Twelve people were dead and 19 others injured in two accidents happening on the Shankun Expressway in Yiliang County Saturday afternoon. Xinhua

Workers clean up the spot of traffic accidents on the Shankun Expressway in Yiliang County, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, late 5 May, 2012. Twelve people were dead and 19 others injured in two accidents happening on the Shankun Expressway in Yiliang County Saturday afternoon. Xinhua

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Novartis study positive for new acromegaly therapy

New York, July 5—The Empire State Building has long been a signature feature of Manhattan’s skyline. But one of its most iconic edifices has undergone a massive, 3-year makeover designed to boost energy efficiency systems in the North African country of 10 million, is owned directly by Qtel. Qtel had planned to Tunisiana on the Tunis stock exchange in the first half of 2011 but those plans were delayed after political turmoil in the country disrupted investment climate.

Greening New York’s most iconic skyscraper

New York, July 5—The Empire State Building has long been a signature feature of Manhattan’s skyline. But one of its most iconic edifices has undergone a massive, 3-year makeover designed to boost energy efficiency systems. The Empire State is the highest-profile project in a growing collection of renovations that are becoming big business for industrial conglomerates and electrical service firms. As America’s towers show their age, especially in the Big Apple, where nearly half of office space was built before 1945, companies like Honeywell International Inc, Johnson Controls Inc, Siemens AG and United Technologies Corp are eyeing a retrofit market predicted to generate $16 billion in annual revenue by 2020, up from about $5 billion last year.}


A man walks past the logo of Swiss drugmaker Novartis Monday study data showed a new therapy for people suffering from acromegaly, a rare disorder characterized by enlargement of the feet, hands and internal organs, was more effective at inducing full biochemical control compared to the current standard medical therapy,” the company said in a statement.

S Korea cracks down on human flesh capsules

SOUTH KOREA, July 5—South Korea says it’s strengthening Customs inspections in a crackdown on the smuggling of Chinese-made capsules filled with powdered human flesh. The state-run Korea Customs Service said on Monday that last August it has discovered 35 attempts to smuggle from China about 17,450 such capsules disguised as superbacteria and other harmful ingredients.

Kremlin orders new bodyguards for Putin

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said Russian President Vladimir Putin will be protected by four new bodyguards. The order followed an incident in which a man entered the president’s official residence in the Black Sea resort of Sochi without being detected.

FBI launches probe into 3G fraud

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is launching a probe into a large-scale fraud involving the 3G cellular phone network. The investigation is aimed at uncovering a $500 million scheme that has been operating for several years.

Qtel’s Tunisia unit wins 3G, fixed licences

DUBAI, July 5—Qatar Telecom, the state-owned telecommunications company in the North African country, has won a contract to launch a 3G mobile network and a fixed-line network in the North African country for $135 million. The 3G network will be launched in July 2012 and the fixed-line services at the beginning of 2013 by unit Tunisiana, Qtel said in a bourse statement. A Qtel consortium had acquired Orascom Telecom Holding’s 90-percent stake in Tunisiana last year. The other member of the consortium was Proholding Holding of Tunisia, a conglomerate controlled by Mohamed Sakher El Materi, the son-in-law of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the Tunisian former president.

Tunisians is only private telecommunications company in the North African country of 10 million, is owned directly by Qtel. Qtel had planned to Tunisiana on the Tunis stock exchange in the first half of 2011 but those plans were delayed after political turmoil in the country disrupted investment climate.

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Johnson Controls, a building efficiency systems supplier based in Milwaukee whose contract for the Empire State is worth about $20 million, estimates six jobs are created for every million dollars spent. By that measure, the retrofit industry will provide almost 100,000 jobs, a meaningful number for a US construction industry in which employment remains high after the housing bust and financial crisis. Inbesure, no one can afford the tens of millions of dollars needed for a sizable retrofit. Financing is scarce and investments can take years to pay off. But for those who can pull off the upfront payment, a retrofit can boost rents, lead to longer leases, lower vacancy rates and attract larger, higher quality tenants. —Reuters
Florida woman receives paper for 80 years

A Florida newspaper said a woman preparing for her 106th birthday may be its longest-running subscriber after receiving the paper for 80 years.

The Orlando Sentinel said Velma Boyd Freeman, who will turn 106 May 19, has been subscribed to the paper since the 1930s, when it came out as a three-cent newspaper.

Freeman, whose daughter said her doctor recently mistook her for 80, said she keeps in shape by cutting lots of “Vidalia onions.”

“The eat them every day,” she said. Freeman said she keeps busy by visiting with her three children, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Reebok makes shoes for tallest man

Massachusetts athletic shoe company Reebok has signed on to create a special pair of shoes for the tallest man on earth.

Igor Vovkovinskiy, a 29-year-old Minnesotan who stands 8 feet and 8.33 inches tall, has not been able to find shoes big enough for him until Reebok agreed to custom make him a pair, free of charge, the Boston Herald reported.

“I’ve basically been a prisoner of my home,” Vovkovinskiy said. “I’ve been so excited about being able to go out for the very first time… and it’s just incredible. It’s an exciting thing.”

Actress Lindsay Hartley seeks divorce

Los Angeles, 7 May—Soap opera star Lindsay Hartley filed divorce paperwork in a Los Angeles County court to end her marriage to fellow actor Justin Hartley.

The petition cites irreconcilable differences with Lindsay seeking custody of the couple’s 7-year-old daughter. TMZ reported.

“I’ve basically been a prisoner of my home,” Vovkovinskiy said. “I’ve been so excited about being able to go out for the very first time… and it’s just incredible. It’s an exciting thing.”

Madonna sued over perfume logo

MILAN, 7 May—A Sydney artist has sued pop queen Madonna for allegedly using her name and a perfume logo designed by him, the Associated Press reported.

RJ Williams, whose pieces have hung in the corridors of the Art Gallery of NSW and Museum of Contemporary Art, is taking legal action against the 53-year-old singer over what he claims is a breach of copyright.

21’ sells more copies than ‘Thriller’ in UK

LONDON, 7 May—Justin Bieber’s album “Believe” has sold more copies than Michael Jackson’s iconic 1982 record “Thriller” in the United Kingdom, the Official Charts Co reported.

Adelle

“21” has now sold 4,274,300 copies in the United Kingdom—90 more than “Thriller,” NME.com said.

The Top 10 best-selling albums of all time in the United Kingdom are: "One Direction’s 'X'" at No 1. The Beatles’ "Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band" at No 2, ABBA’s "Mamma Mia!" at No 3. Oasis’ "What’s The Story Morning Glory?" at No 4, Adele’s "21" at No 5, Jackson's Thriller” at No 6, Dire Straits “Brothers in Arms” at No 7, Pink Floyd’s “The Dark Side Of The Moon” at No 8, Jackson’s "Bad" at No 9 and Queen’s "Greatest Hits I & II" at No 10.

Saab fans buy last Saab made

A Saab-enthusiast group raised money through a blog to buy the last Saab 9-3 Griffin produced by the Saab Automobile factory in Trollhättan, Sweden.

The Saab United blog raised more than the SEK 29,330 needed to buy the car, the Local reported.

“RIA the fans, set out on a mission to buy a car, and not just any car, we set out to buy the last of a production series, the last Saab 9-3 Griffin,” operators of the Saab United blog posted on Friday.

“And we have done it. Today we passed the amount required.”

More than 600 diehard Saab fans donated funds to buy the last Saab produced.

The car will not be in the hands of Saab United for long, however, as the group plans on donating the car, as well as extra money donated, to the Saab Museum in Trollhättan.

Saab Automobile declared bankruptcy in December 2011, following the failure of Chinese partnership to follow through on a takeover.

The Saab United was started in 2005 by Australian Steven Wade and later taken over by Tim Rokka.

Lug nuts stolen from Chicago cop cars

Chicago police were investigating the theft of lug nuts from squad cars sitting in a police station parking lot on the city’s Southwest Side, officials said.

The lug nuts began disappearing about a week ago, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

No officers have been involved in road accidents because of the apparent vandalism, officials said.

“It’s not funny,” one Morgan Park District officer said Saturday. “You could lose control and run into a building or a person or another car.”

No suspects had been identified, but officers also discovered a concrete slab in the Morgan Park District police parking lot containing an anarchist symbol, officials said.

Jordin Sparks misses co-star

DETROIT, 7 May—Jordin Sparks says she’ll have to see in her throat when she sees the final cut of “Sparkle,” the movie she made with Whitney Houston.

“Sparkle” has been seen by few people as a comeback for Houston, but it turned out to be her last hurrah before her death of a heart attack three months after shooting wrapped.

“I think the first time I actually get to see it, I’ll probably Bailily throughout the entire film,” Sparks told the Detroit Free Press. “Then I’ll have to see a second time to really see what they did with it.” Houston played Sparks’ mother in the film, and Sparks said Houston seemed to enjoy the role of mentor and mother off camera as well.

“Shes always just so encouraging,” said the Detroit native and “American Idol” winner. “She was so full of joy and full of light, because this was the United States. She’s been working on this movie and getting it out for, I think, 10 plus years.” Sparkle and 8.33 inches tall.

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Azarenka, Sharapova advance in Madrid

MADRID, 7 May — The top two seeds advanced to the Madrid Open second round on Sunday when Victoria Azarenka defeated Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-6, 6-4 and Maria Sharapova crushed Eina-Camela Begu 6-0, 6-2.

Making a less auspicious debut on the unfamiliar blue clay, a controversial innovation at this year’s event, was 2010 French Open champion Francesca Schiavone, who was upset 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 by American qualifier Varvara Lepchenko.

Azarenka, the world number one and runner-up in Madrid last year, dealt efficiently with the presence of three Russian Kuznetsova, another former French Open champion who had beaten the Belarusian in four of their six previous meetings. Sharapova has been in blistering form this year, however, with 29 wins, four titles including her first Slam grand at the Australian Open which catapulted her to number one, and just two defeats.

Second-ranked Sharapova was coming into the Madrid event following her win over Azarenka in last week’s Stuttgart final, her first title of the year and 25th overall, and swatted aside the 56th-ranked Begu who was making her debut at the premier event in the Spanish Capital. The Russian will be looking to complete her collection of grandSlam titles at Roland Garros starting later this month, the only one of the four she has not won. Former number one Caroline Wozniacki and Ana Ivanovic had contrasting matches as both progressed into the second round.

Dane Wozniacki, the six-time Danish Open champion Rory McIlroy, the 23-year-old Fowler gambled with a 51-degree wedge that had to be perfect on an 18th hole at Quail Hollow that had yielded only four birdies all day. And it was Fowler stuffed his shot into 4 feet for a birdie on the first extra hole to beat McIlroy and DA Points in the Wells Fargo Championship on Sunday.

It was his first PGA Tour win in 67th start as a professional, bringing him a small measure of relief and a big dose of credibility. “I didn’t want to play it safe,” Fowler said. “I had a good number (133 yards), and I was aiming right of the hole with the wind coming out of the right, and I hit a perfect shot, it comes down right on the stick. ... Hit a perfect shot at the 18th hole there, and I was going for it.”

McIlroy, who returned to No. 1 in the world, used Quail Hollow as a launching pad toward stardom when he won here two years ago. Perhaps this is the start of a rivalry between a pair of 23-year-olds who bring power, flair and exuberance to the game.

Juve deserve title, says Allegri

ROMA, 7 May — AC Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri congratulated Juventus for their Scudetto victory and felt Milan paid a price for injuries, especially in the Milan derby. “Juventus won the title, deserved to win it and it was a fascinating season with two teams on many points. Compared to last season, many more points were needed,” said Allegri after his side lost 4-2 to Inter. “Juventus had a great chance. So did we. I have to blame the problems we went through from injuries to incidents. I think the lads for the work they did this year and next term we’ll be here fighting again.”

“It’s difficult to say what Milan lacked compared to last year. We did make mistakes that forced a heavy price, including tonight when we were close to going 3-2 up and instead went 3-2 down. “We played pretty well tonight and did all we could to bring home the result, but this is football. Last season Samuel Eto’o admitted an open goal from point-blank range in an important moment of the game and we won 3-0.”

“We lost Daniel Bona after 10 minutes, Christian Abbiati had a tough strain, we had two long matches with Matta De Sciglio limping on a swollen ankle. It’s just one of those years. “I don’t think there is a gap from Juventus, as these teams are on the same level and it will be interesting to see how they fare next season when they have to deal with the Champions League.”
Outstanding police members honoured in Meiktila

MEIKILA, 7 May—A ceremony to honour outstanding police members of Meiktila District Police Force who exposed bootlegging and theft cases in a short time was held at the hall of the District Police Force on 30 April.

At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner U Sein Oak of District General Administration Department made a speech. Dr Daw Nanda Hin and Daw Nweni presented gifts to Commander of Meiktila Township Police Force Police Captain Manung Maung Thaw on behalf of the outstanding police members.

Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Zaw Win Min Than explained the occurrence of crimes and seizures of culprits.—Myanma Alin

Italian nuclear company boss wounded in shooting

GENOA, 7 May—A gunman on a motorbike shot and wounded the head of Italian nuclear energy company Ansaldo Nucleare on Monday, with investigators quoted in media reports saying anarchists could be responsible.

Roberto Adinolfi, a 53-year-old nuclear engineer, was shot in the leg as he left his home in Genoa in northwest Italy and his life is not in danger, officials said. Three shots were fired and there were two men on the motorbike.

The anarchist movement has a strong presence in the port of Genoa and ANSA news agency said police were looking at recent calls by some anarchist groups for a shift to a new phase that could lead to armed action.

Kneecapping is also reminiscent of attacks by far-right and far-left militants in the 1970s and 1980s in Italy’s “Year of Lead”. Pier Luigi Bersani, head of the centre-left Democratic Party, said the attack was “a worrying sign of growing tensions and violence.”

“Light should be shed on this incident and democracy should be defended,” Bersani said, adding that Italy “has already paid a heavy price in blood.”

Ansaldo Nucleare, which is part of aerospace and defence giant Finmeccanica, builds third-generation nuclear reactors and has recently won contracts in China, Romania and Slovakia even though Italy has no nuclear energy.

“Our colleague has been operated on and his condition is not particularly serious,” said Alessandro Pansa, director general of Finmeccanica.

If this was confirmed as a politically-linked attack, Pansa said that would be “extremely serious” and “symptomatic of an extremely complex climate.”

Pansa said Finmeccanica would not allow itself to be “intimidated.”

UK jeweller Graff aims for June listing in HK

HONG KONG, 7 May—High-end London-based jeweller Graff Diamonds is planning to list in Hong Kong on 7 June, a report said Monday, as it seeks to raise up to $1.0 billion in one of the biggest IPOs this year.

The firm plans to start taking orders from investors in a roadshow between 21 and 31 May and is set to price the initial public offering at the end of the event, according to a term sheet seen by Dow Jones Newswires.

The IPO is set to be one of this year’s blockbuster sales in Hong Kong, which is Asia’s second-largest brokerage market.

In 2007, 13 rhinos were poached. Last year the number hit 448, and more than 200 have already been killed this year in Kenya, Zimbabwe and other countries, poaching is also on the rise, but at a less dramatic pace. The southern Africa Rhino Management Group warns that if current trends continue, the number of deaths will outstrip births, sending the rhino population on a downward spiral.

The massive herbivores that seem to have stepped right out of pre-historic times were nearly killed off during the 19th and 20th centuries. Through conservation efforts, and lucrative private game farms, white and black rhino populations have rebounded. Africa now has an estimated 20,700 white rhinos, and 4,800 black.

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Influenza ‘Histone Mimic’ suppresses antiviral response

For a virus like influenza, the key to success isn’t in overpowering the immune system, it’s in tricking it. A team of researchers led by scientists at The Rockefeller University has identified a novel mechanism by which influenza viruses hijack key regulators of the human body’s normal antiviral response in order to slip by it undetected.

The finding, reported recently in Nature, shows that the immunosuppressive NS1 proteina core component of gene regulating machinery in order to block antiviral gene function. The results they describe have major implications for our understanding of the biology of the seasonal influenza virus and its pathogenesis. The research also suggests a possible target for a new class of antiviral and anti-inflammatory drugs.

The researchers, led by Alexander Tarakhovsky, head of the Laboratory of Lymphocyte Signaling, showed that the NS1 protein of the H1N1 strain of influenza—the “seasonal” flu—contains the same sequence of amino acids as the “tail” domain of a DNA packaging protein in humans called histone H3. The histones are present in the cell nucleus and play an important role in gene activation.

Teenager Draxler given surprise Germany call-up

BERLIN, 7 May—Schalke 04’s teenage midfielder Julian Draxler won a surprise call-up on Monday to Germany’s preliminary 27-man squad for Euro 2012 next month.

The uncapped 19-year-old made his Bundesliga debut just over a year ago and has been in sparkling form this season, helping Schalke clinch a third-place finish.

Coach Joachim Loew said the final squad would be announced later this month, adding there would be some changes.

Germany’s players begin their preparations on Friday without several key men.

The players from Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich will be absent, because of Saturday’s German Cup final, together with Real Madrid pair Mesut Ozil and Sami Khedira.

Bayern’s players will not join up with the Euro 2012 squad until after the Champions League final against Chelsea to be held on May 19.

Arsenal defender Per Mertesacker, who has been out since February due to ankle surgery, is expected to be fit for the pre-tournament training camp.

“He will be challenged by us in training,” Loew told reporters. “We start preparations on Friday with only some of our players but we just have to try our best to get the most out of it.”

Germany have been drawn in Group B in Ukraine and Poland along with Netherlands, Portugal and Denmark.— Internet

Greening New York’s most iconic skyscraper

Fowler finally a winner on the PGA Tour

UK jeweller Graff aims for June listing in HK

Actress Regina King wears a near $2 mn yellow diamond ring from Graff Diamonds at an event in Los Angeles in January.

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