have been increased. In drafting a social security law, government, the pensions of retired service personnel who had difficulties with their insufficient monthly pensions increased. In the light of findings, the investigation teams and some parties suggest that there was no case of waxing the ballots and no legal complaint about it in those 10 townships; it was groundless complaint; 1-4-2012 by-election was a national concern; such false accusation could harm the image of Myanmar’s by-election closely watched by the world; and legal action should be lodged against the false grumbler. The NLD campaign manager was also quoted in Vol. (1) No. (93) of Monitor News Journal in pre-by-election period that it was hard to be free and fair election, citing false stories. UEC sent Letter No. 1/NaNgRa-MaPaTa (1)/KaMaRa dated 1-3-2012 to the chairperson of the party concerned, warning against speaking ill of the election which led to misunderstanding among the people and the international community by any CEC member of the party. The complaint made by the secretary of the NLD central campaign team is invalid. In accord with the law, UEC has warned the secretary of the party concerned against stating such groundless information, leading to misunderstanding among the people, for taking action if necessary.

In time of new government, pensions of retired service personnel who had difficulties with their insufficient monthly pensions increased.

Participants of Asia/Pacific Regional Conference on Ageing 2012 pose for photo together with Union Minister U Aung Kyi after opening ceremony of the conference at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

Union Minister expressed his belief that the conference would be able to seek ways not only to consider for the increased aging population in the future but also to render necessary assistance to the elderly people at present. After the ceremony, the Union Minister posed for a documentary photo together with the representatives.

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A kind of dreadful plague

If a country is totally free from all forms of malpractices including bribery and corruption, it can have greater material and financial power to look after its own people in health, education, social welfare and many other sectors. But it may not be possible to be absolutely free from every kind of dishonest practices as we the human beings are sometimes fond of committing misdeeds or in many cases we can earn easy money or even get rich through bribery and corruption and other illegal means.

Nevertheless, we can mitigate malpractices rife in some parts of our society to the most possible degree ensuring a healthier national economy that can spend more money for public social services and at the same time curbing misconducts in every corner.

We are now witnessing encouraging signs in multiple sectors thanks to the government’s democratic reforms covering a myriad of fields from clean government and good governance introducing transparency on a wider scale to better international relations in which we are receiving positive responses from many states all over the world.

And with the introduction of transparency, we are fighting back bribery and corruption a plague many other countries of this planet are suffering from; strengthening clean government and good governance that in fact is the cornerstone of democratic transition; and engendering progress in every area especially the private businesses which actually are the main engine of national economic growth in the future.

Since we have already committed ourselves to democratic reforms, with clean government and good governance as the nucleus, we have action plans under implementation to free our society from all forms of malpractices in general and bribery and corruption in particular as they are a kind of dreadful plague, and if grow bigger and reach the uncontrollable stage will lead us to our doomsday.

Union Mines Minister receives Member of British House of Lord

NAV Pyi Taw, 8 May—Union Minister for Mines U Tin Naing Thein received Bangkok-based Spanish Ambassador Mr Ignacio Sagaz and party at his office here yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters on role of administrative bodies in the mining sector, tax system and taxes, import and export of mining products, geographical facts, prospects for using high-tech in the mining sector, Airborne Survey System and Remote Sensing System.

MNA

Spanish entrepreneurs interested in putting investment in Myanmar

NAV Pyi Taw, 8 May—Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein received Bangkok-based Spanish Ambassador Mr Ignacio Sagaz and party.

They cordially discussed investment and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Spanish entrepreneurs are interested in doing business with investment in Myanmar. At the call, they coordinated establishment of connection of merchant associations between the two countries.

MNA

Union A&I Minister receives FAO Resident Representative

NAV Pyi Taw, 8 May—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing received FAO Resident Representative Ms Bui Thi Lan at his office yesterday morning.

They had an cordial discussion on development of agriculture sector between Myanmar and FAO.

MNA

Union Commerce Minister receives Spanish Ambassador

NAV Pyi Taw, 8 May—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a delegation led by Bangkok-based Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain from Thailand Mr Ignacio Sagaz at his office here this morning.

They had a cordial discussion on promotion of trade and investments sectors between the two more countries and cooperation in private sector more than ever before.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Htun, the director-general of Border Trade Department, the managing director of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading and officials concerned.

MNA

Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAV Pyi Taw, 8 May—A delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Mr Radoslaw Sikorski arrived here by special flight this evening, and they were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Director-General U Aung Lin of ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General U Tha Aung Nyunt of Councilor and Legal Affairs Department, Deputy Director-General U San Lwin of Political Affairs Department and officials.

The Polish FM was accompanied by Polish Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Jerzy Bayer and high-ranking officials and businessmen.

MNA

Dy Construction Minister inspects Sittoung Bridge (Natthangwin) worksite

NAV Pyi Taw, 8 May—Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected the chosen site for the camp of first aid of Myanmar Red Cross Society near mile post No. 115, Yangon-Mandalay Highway on 6 May.

He also looked into Sittoung Bridge (Natthangwin) work site and approach structure being constructed by Special Work Group (2) (Bridge) via Pyu-Penwegon-Kyaukkyi Road.

MNA

NPED Dy Minister meets district/township planning committees in Bago, Mandalay

NAV Pyi Taw, 8 May—Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw held a meeting with members of Bago district/township planning committees, local businessmen and employees of district/township planning departments in Tammon, Bago Region, yesterday.

He also met with members of district/township planning committees, businessmen and employees of district/township planning departments in Mandalay Region at Meiktila District General Administration Department today.

During the meetings, Deputy Minister Dr Kan Zaw urged the committees to collect correct statistics from the state-owned, private-owned and cooperatives sectors in coordination with departments concerned, organizations and townholders in the respective regions.

He also called for drawing and implementing plans for regional developments and rural areas development projects, reviewing the progress of the implementation of projects for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and monthly supervising the projects in accordance with the provisions of the National Planning Law for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and sending monthly reviews to the departments concerned.

The deputy minister answered the questions of those present at the meetings.

MNA
French newly-elected President Francois Hollande waves from a balcony at his campaign headquarters in Paris on 7 May, 2012, the day after his election.  

Reuters

Karzai says Afghan civilian deaths could hinder US pact

KABUL, 8 May — The strategic pact sealed by President Barack Obama last week in Afghanistan is at risk of becoming meaningless if Afghans do not feel safe, President Hamid Karzai said on Monday, referring to recent civilian casualties inflicted by NATO/NATO’s surrogate US General John Allen, commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan and US Ambassador Ryan Crocker to his palace to discuss the civilian deaths, a long-standing thorn in ties between Karzai and his Western backers.

The killing of civilians caused the “feelings of many ordinary Afghans towards foreign forces in a war that is becoming increasingly unpopular and is dragging into its 11th year. Karzai said the strategic pact with the United States to avoid such incidents (civilian casualties) and if Afghans do not feel safe, the strategic partnership loses its meaning,” a presidential palace statement said. It said an agreement setting out a long-term US role in Afghanistan for the one-year anniversary of Osama bin Laden’s death on 2 May to sign the strategic partnership, which lays out plans for future aid and advisers. The deal may provide Afghans with reassurances that they will not be abandoned when most NATO combat troops leave as planned in 2014. — Reuters

Putin seeks close US ties, missile guarantee

MOSCOW, 8 May — Moscow will seek closer ties with the United States but will not tolerate interference in its affairs and wants guarantees a US missile shield will not be used against Russia, under terms of a decree signed by President Vladimir Putin on Monday, setting out foreign policy priorities in a wide-ranging document signed hours after his inauguration to a six-year term as president, vowing little from an article he wrote on the subject during the election campaign. Moscow wants to bring in an Afghan with Washington’s “to a truly strategic level” but relations must be based on “equality, non-interference in internal affairs and respect for one another’s interests”, the decree said. Russia will “consistently stand up for its policy in connection with the creation by the United States of a global missile defence system, seeking firm guarantees it is not directed against Russia’s nuclear deterrent forces”. The decree touched on policy around the world, but it served as a message to the United States ahead of Putin’s expected meeting with US President Barack Obama, who has a Group of Eight industrial powers summit later this month. Relations improved during the presidency of Putin’s protégé Dmitry Medvedev, who signed a landmark nuclear arms limitation pact with Obama in 2010. But ties have been strained over US and NATO plans for an anti-missile shield in Europe and deep differences over the bloody upheaval in Libya and Syria. — Reuters

IMF says Myanmar could boom if it sticks to reforms

WASHINGTON, 8 May — The International Monetary Fund said on Monday that Myanmar could be Asia’s next boom economy if the country sticks to its new path of political and economic reforms.

The IMF said it was concerned about Myanmar’s ability to take advantage of its rapid growth and instability in its currency, but that it had good policies in place to ensure that any risks would be contained.

“This is a key beginning,” said Mervin Karasulu, the IMF’s mission chief for the country.

“Over the past two years, the progress is very tangible.”

Karasulu said the government’s move to put the kyat currency on a managed float at the beginning of April showed the country’s commitment to reform.

The economy grew an estimated 5.5 percent last year and will pick up pace to about 6 percent in the current year, with inflation rising to 5.8 percent as well.

With a surge in foreign investment sparking a rise in imports, the country’s current account shortfall is expected to widen.

Even so, Myanmar’s reserves were $7.1 billion US dollars in September 2011, and “are expected to remain comfortable”, this year. — MNA/AFPCNA

Markets, Germany wary as Hollande wins in France

PARIS, 8 May — Francois Hollande’s election as France’s presidential candidate was greeted by jitters on European markets and a drop in front in Berlin where ruling conservatives warned the Socialist on Monday that Germany were not ready to pay for his promises of an end to austerity. With investors spooked by Greek voters’ rejection of parties which slashed budgets to secure an EU bailout, festivities in Paris after Hollande defeated centre-right incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy on Sunday soon gave way to a grim sense of getting down to the business of dealing with Europe’s deep economic crisis.

Hollande spent the day cloistered with aides who said they reviewed how he might pitch “the priority for growth in Europe” to Chancellor Angela Merkel. They meet for the first time next week in Berlin to relaunch the Franco-German partnership that lies at the heart of the European Union and the euro currency. “I must prepare myself,” said Hollande, who has never been a minister and is little known outside France. “I said that I was ready and now I must make sure I am completely.”

His campaign chief Pierre Moscovici said the president-elect discussed how to present his plan to pull troops out of Afghanistan this year, as well as the new economic growth strategy.

A promise of a welcome with “open arms” in Berlin could not conceivably come among Merkel’s Christian Democrats about what country.

Now, says Karasulu, the government is committed to unifying the rates under a managed float by the time it hosts the Southeast Asian games at the end of 2013.

“There are still many informal market exchange rates,” Karasulu said.

But, she added, “I do not find it unrealistic” to aim for complete currency reform by the end of 2013.

“Others warned,” said Karasulu, the government has moved away from simply printing money to fund its deficits, which together with distorted exchange rates has fueled extreme inflation in recent years.

The IMF has seen a “significant decline” in so-called deficit monetization, “by about half,” she said.

That has helped calm price rises: inflation that averaged nearly 33 percent in the fiscal year that ended in March 2008 was down to 8.2 percent in fiscal 2010-11, and 4.2 percent in the year just ended.

Karasulu said the government could easily further cut the practice by allowing the state banks and insurance companies to invest more of their reserves in state bonds. Currently both groups face tight restrictions on such purchases.

The IMF said the government’s finances are fairly stable and show promise in the macroeconomic environment.

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Even so, Myanmar’s reserves were $7.1 billion US dollars in September 2011, and “are expected to remain comfortable”, this year. — MNA/AFPCNA

S Korea, Japan step up talks on military accord

SEOUL, 8 May — South Korea said on Tuesday it is close to signing agreements on military cooperation with Japan, the first such accords since Tokyo’s brutal colonial rule over Korea ended in 1945. — Internet

This file photo, released by South Korean Navy, shows S Korean navy ships during a sea drill near a group of islands claimed by both Seoul and Tokyo, in 2008. S Korea said on Tuesday it is close to signing agreements on military cooperation with Japan, the first such accords since Tokyo’s brutal colonial rule over Korea ended in 1945. — Internet

Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during a news conference in Kabul on 3 May, 2012.  

Reuters
\section*{Science & Technology}

\subsection*{Robotic arm to reveal inner workings of brain cells}

WASHINGTON, 8 May—Gaining access to the inner workings of a brain cell (neuron) in real time offers a wealth of useful information. However, it is such a painstaking and challenging task that only a small number of labs in the world practise it—until now.

Researchers have developed a new automated process to gain access to neurons from brains with a single probing device. The device, called a robotic arm, is a small, motorized tool that can be guided through brain tissue by the use of an image-guided system.

The method could be particularly useful in studying brain disorders such as schizophrenia, Parkinson’s disease, autism and epilepsy. Ed Boyden, associate professor of biological engineering and brain and cognitive sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, collaborated with Craig Forest, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, US, on the project. "In all these cases, a molecular description of a cell that is integrated with [electrical and circuit properties has remained elusive. If we could really describe how diseases change molecules in specific cells within the living brain, it might enable better drug targets to be found," adds Boyden.

Boyden and Forest designed a robotic arm which, guided by a cell-detecting computer algorithm, identifies and records from neurons in the living mouse brain with better accuracy and speed than a human experimenter, according to an MIT and Georgia statement. "Our team has been interdisciplinary from the beginning, and this has enabled us to bring the principles of precision machine design to bear upon the study of the living brain," Forest says.—\textit{INTERNET}

\subsection*{Emergency traffic system passes test}

Anthem, 8 May—A small city in Arizona has successfully tested a computer-controlled traffic system to help emergency responders reach the site of an incident, officials said.

Anthem, just north of Phoenix, was the test site for a federally funded traffic management system that will not only protect emergency vehicles from colliding with traffic during rapid response and record information from emergency responders to “talk” to each other and prioritize each other’s routes to an emergency incident, the University of Arizona College of Engineering reported.

In a live demonstration of the SmartDrive system in April 2012, traffic signals at six intersections along a 2.3-mile stretch of an Anthem street were retrofitted with components to allow the signals to “talk” to not only each other, but with at least two other emergency vehicles involved in the demonstration. The system uses a combination of short-range radios, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth to maintain connections. When the incident alert alarm was given to the system, it began clearing a path of green lights for the emergency vehicle while also reporting the location of the vehicle to coordinators and other vehicles connected to the system. "It’s the capability to talk to several responding vehicles at once that makes this traffic system unique, and is the focus of our research," said Larry Head, professor of systems and industrial engineering at the UA College of Engineering.

Researchers said the system could also be expanded to give city buses, special needs vehicles and other mass transportation providers a clear path through traffic tie-ups in near-real time.—\textit{INTERNET}

\subsection*{Russia plans ammonia-fueled rocket engine}

MOSCOW, 8 May—A Russian rocket engine company says it is developing an engine to be powered by ammonia, which should reduce the high cost of rocket launches.

Energomash says the engine will be 30 percent more efficient than existing designs and will avoid the need to produce hydrogen for fuel, RIA Novosti reported on Saturday.

The rocket will operate on a mixture of acetylene and ammonia, and the company said that "a mixture of acetylene and ammonia is 20 times cheaper than hydrogen as a kilogramme of hydrogen costs about 2 thousand rubles [\$67] and a kilo of atsetam is maximum of 100 rubles [\$3.35]." Energomash Innovative Technology Director Anatoly Likhvanov said.

The new engine will be based on the existing RD-161 oxygen-kerosene engine and will not require major structural changes, he said, since the physical properties of atsetam are similar to kerosene. "Using 5 to 7 tons of this mixture, we can save a considerable amount of money," Likhvanov said.

In addition, the components that are included in atsetam can be easily stored and transported, whereas hydrogen requires special storage and transportation conditions.

Energomash officials said rockets could be launched with the new engine in 2017-2018.—\textit{INTERNET}

\subsection*{‘Hot Jupiters’ found to be loners}

\textbf{Gainesville, 8 May—} So-called hot Jupiter-type planets orbiting distant stars are likely alone in their systems, research by a University of Florida astronomer and others found.

Hot Jupiters, giant planets roughly the size of Jupiter but orbiting close to their parent stars—and thus much hotter than Earth or Jupiter—have short orbital periods, speeding around their parent stars in fewer than 10 days, astronaut Eric Ford said.

Ford and other researchers analyzed data from NASA’s Kepler space telescope, looked for signs of additional planets either circling in front of the host stars or gravitationally tugging on the orbits of hot Jupiters, but found no evidence of additional planets, a university release reported on Monday.

Astronomers say they believed hot Jupiters were solitary because of the way they form. They are probably formed far from their host star in highly elongated orbits. Researchers say that causes them to pass very close to the host star and then travel far away.

The star’s gravitational forces affect the planet, causing its orbit to become smaller and more circular, they said—a process that would remove or destroy any other low-mass planets that may have formed initially between the star and the giant planet.

"When a giant planet repeatedly passes through the inner regions of a planetary system on an elongated orbit, it would wreak great havoc on any planets that had formed there," Ford said.

"The other planets would either fall into the star, collide with the hot Jupiter or be kicked out of the system via a gravitational slingshot."

\subsection*{Fossil gives hints of larger human brains}

\textbf{TALLAHASSEE, 8 May—} Features of one of the world’s most famous fossils may partly explain the evolution of larger brains in modern humans and our ancestors, US researchers say.

A Florida State University researcher and her colleagues say the findings suggest brain evolution was a result of a complex set of interrelated dynamics in childbirth among early, evolving bipeds.

Evolutionary anthropologist Dean Falk analyzed the Taung fossil, discovered in South Africa in 1924 and estimated to be about 2.2 million years old. The fossil, believed to be that of a child 3 to 4 years old, is the “type specimen,” or main model, of the genus Australopithecus africanus.

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Chrysler recalls 119,000 vehicles

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—US automaker Chrysler Group said it is recalling 119,000 vehicles due to fuses that can overheat, which could cause brake problems. The recall involves 2011 and 2012 Chrysler 200 and Dodge Chargers. The fuse that could overheat is associated with the computer controller that operates electronic stability control systems and anti-lock brake systems, CNNMoney reported on Monday.

The problem was initially thought to involve only police models sold by Chrysler. But David Dillon, Chrysler’s chief of product investigations and campaigns, said the company had decided to repair all models by moving the fuse to a cooler location — to be on the safe side.

“Despite a small number of incidents, we concluded it was in the best interest of our customers to repair the vehicles and eliminate the potential for this condition to occur,” Dillon said in a statement. —INTERNET

Finance Minister Jun Azumi (pictured on 3 May) on Tuesday warned French president-elect Francois Hollande to keep the nation’s fiscal discipline in place amid worries the new leader will overpend in a bid to boost the economy.—INTERNET

TOKYO, 8 May—Japan’s Finance Minister Jun Azumi told a regular news conference in Tokyo, according to Dow Jones Newswires.

“We want (France) to do what has been decided so far, and I’d like to tell them about that if there is the opportunity,” Azumi said.

On Monday, Azumi said Hollande “fully understands” the need for rebuilding Europe and despite his calls to review the European Union’s fiscal pact to include measures to spur growth. The treaty now stresses austerity efforts.

“I want him to act based on understanding the schemes and thinking that we, the IMF, and the G-7 have cultivated up to now,” Azumi said.

The election outcomes are seen as a backlash against austerity measures aimed at battling the eurozone crisis, as pushed by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who lost to Hollande — and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Following the elections, the euro skewed to $1.2954 in early trade Monday, its lowest level since early January, while also slumping to 103.22 yen at one stage, its worst since mid-February.

On Tuesday, the single unit was trading at 1.3035 and 104.20 yen.—INTERNET

Many Brits do nothing but relax after work

LONDON, 8 May—Many British adults admit to being too lazy to climb stairs, cook dinner, have sex or iron wrinkles from clothes, a survey indicates.

The survey by Weight Watchers UK of 2,683 British adults indicated 32 percent said they always drive short distances when walking was a viable option, while more than half said they duck out of regular exercise sessions in favor of a night on the sofa.

The survey showed the average Briton does nothing but sit down for an average of four nights a week. Seventeen percent said they didn’t enough drive to have sex with their partner and went straight to sleep instead. Also on the “can’t be bothered” list were:

— Decline a night out because they didn’t want to get ready.
— Shove everything under beds rather than tidying properly.
— Join a new gym and then couldn’t be bothered to attend.

New studies show shocking numbers in the amount of people with skin cancer, which can be attributed to too much sun.—INTERNET

Tourists pose for photos at the Angkor Wat temple complex in Siem Reap Province on 13 April, 2012. Tourism is one of the key currency earners for Cambodia with a reported growth of 5.0% in services, Asian Development Bank (ADB) said this week in its outlook. Tourist arrivals picked up by 14.9% to 2.9 million in 2011 with arrivals from elsewhere in Asia particularly strong. Growth in tourism benefited the hotels and restaurants, retailing, and transportation.—REUTERS

Eye colour linked to severity of skin conditions

WASHINGON, 8 May—Eye colour can tell whether a person is at risk of serious skin conditions. The blue eyed are less likely to have vitiligo, while the brown eyed may have lower risk of melanoma, says a new study.

Vitiligo is an autoimmune skin disease in which pigment loss results in irregular white patches of skin and hair. Melanoma is the most dangerous kind of skin cancer.

The study, led by the University of Colorado School of Medicine (UCS), looked at almost 3,000 people with vitiligo of Non-Hispanic European ancestry, identifying 11 new genes predisposed to vitiligo, the journal Nature Genetics reports.

“Genetically, in some ways vitiligo and melanoma are polar opposites. Some of the same genetic variations that make one more likely to have vitiligo make one less likely to have melanoma, and vice-versa,” said Richard Spritz, director of the Human Medical Genetics and Genomics Programme at the UCSM. “Vitiligo is an autoimmune disease, in which a person’s immune system attacks their normal pigment cells. We think that vitiligo represents overactivity of a normal process by which one’s immune system searches out and destroys early cancerous melanoma cells,” added Spritz, according to a Colorado statement.

People with vitiligo are at higher risk of various other autoimmune diseases, such as thyroid disease, type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. Their kin are also at higher risk for these same diseases, even if they don’t have vitiligo. Spritz said this means there must be some genes that push towards these autoimmune diseases in general, while other genes and environmental triggers determine which autoimmune disease occurs and when.

So, as scientists learn more about the genetics of vitiligo, they are also learning about the genetics of these other autoimmune diseases.—INTERNET

Health Tip: Caring for a blister

Blisters form when something presses and rubs on the skin. While you should monitor the area for signs of infection, such as pain or redness, experts say the best way to care for a blister is to leave it alone. The University of Michigan Health System offers these suggestions:

* Avoid popping a blister. But if it is large or a source of constant pain or discomfort, use a sterile needle and carefully drain it.
* Don’t cover the blister unless you have to. If something is rubbing against the area, cover it with a loose bandage, which should be changed regularly.
* If possible, avoid the activity that caused the blister to form.
* Always wash your hands carefully before touching a blister.
* Apply an antibiotic ointment to help prevent infection.
Qaeda kills 22 Yemen troops after death of leader

ZINJIBAR, 8 May—Al-Qaeda gunmen on Monday launched spectacular attacks on two army posts in southern Yemen, killing at least 22 soldiers, to avenge the death of a top militant in an air raid, a military official said. Jihadists attacked the military posts outside the city of Zinjibar, which they have controlled since May last year, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Four officers were among those killed, he said.

The attacks came after Yemeni al-Qaeda leader Fahd al-Quso, who was wanted in connection with the deadly 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, was killed in an air strike in eastern Yemen on Sunday. “They attacked our positions in retaliation for the killing of Fahd al-Quso,” said a military official, adding that a total of 22 soldiers were killed in the attack. He said the army had been anticipating al-Qaeda retaliation for the killing of Quso, saying that an alert was sent out to all units to expect an attack by the “enemy” following Sunday’s air raid. Some 25 other soldiers have not been accounted for, the military official said, adding that dozens of militants took part in the attack, some of whom arrived by sea. A medic in Aden said that 11 soldiers were also wounded.

French affair: Hollande meets Chinese ambassador, calls for closer ties

PARIS, 8 May—French president-elect Francois Hollande is due to meet the Chinese ambassador to France on Monday to discuss the developing of friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries. Talking to Hong Kong in Paris before meeting other ambassadors, the president-elect said France and China should continue to strengthen coordination and collaboration in a meeting with Kong Quan, the Chinese Ambassador to France. Hollande said France recognizes China’s important influence over international politics and economy, and would like to see continuous development in the bilateral relations. The French ambassador will meet with the Chinese president before the visit.

Meanwhile, the US Embassy in Kabul acknowledged a two-year, rarely used programme to release detainees from a military prison run by the American military near the capital, saying it was meant to bolster reconciliation between the Afghan government and the Taleban. The Taleban announcement last week was another sign of the difficulty of reuniting a group that has been fighting the US-led coalition and Afghan forces for more than a decade. The Taleban said they would target anyone — from government workers to tribal leaders — who works against them and helps foreigners in their “occupation” of Afghanistan.

Afghan girls push plastic containers of water on a cart in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 6 May, 2012. — Reuters

On Monday, the Interior Ministry said that while again declaring war against the Afghan people, their government and constitution, the Taleban militants also abuse their religious values in the name of a cause opposed to the basic Islamic principles of peace, education and kindness. “The ministry statement said the Taleban use propaganda and “twisted holy religious values to justify their criminal activities,” which have killed thousands of innocent people.

Anti-terrorism police officer killed in Pakistan

QUETTA, 8 May—A police officer says gunman killed a senior anti-terrorism police officer in southwest Pakistan. Hamid Shaked told the Associated Press that the officer was killed on Tuesday night in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan Province. Khan was deputy head of Baluchistan’s Crimes Investigation Department, which works exclusively on cases dealing with terrorism and sectarian violence. Shaked says Khan had received threats from militant groups but would not identify them.

Another police official says Khan had in custody militants from Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, an al-Qaeda-linked group that has carried out many recent attacks on Shiites Muslims in Baluchistan. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.
Improvement of English Proficiency Skills for staff discussed  
NAV PYI TAW, 8 May—Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Thaung Tintin invited Chairman Mr Nicholas J Randall and responsible personnel to his office and held discussions on conducting of English Language Proficiency Course in order to turn out efficient staff for the state this morning. As Myanmar is taking the place of ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014, English proficiency skills of the staff are of vital importance as well as basic needs. English Language Proficiency Courses will be intended to run in Nay Pyi Taw beginning June, 2012 to next year June, 2013, a whole year. Also present at the meeting were the director-general of Planning Department, the director-general of Foreign Economic Relations Department, the director-general of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration, and officials concerned. —MNA

Delegation of US National War College arrive in Yangon  
NAV PYI TAW, 8 May—A goodwill delegation led by Deputy Commandant Mr Richard Norland of National War College of the United States of America arrived in Yangon by air this morning. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Brig-Gen Thit Lin Ohn of Mingaladon Station, senior military officers, US Military Attaché Colonel Brey R Sloan and officials. —MNA

Say it Now!  
There are all kinds of people in the world. Those who are emotional express their feelings, and those who are unemotional hide their feelings. Those who are taciturn, little given to expressing their feelings and are thought to be strong but actually they are not. For all of us, being human, we need to face the unavoidable fact that any time it may be too late to say the things we really feel but often put off saying. Life is short. For not saying now, perhaps some simple words “You’re doing well”, “I’m proud of you”, “Thank you”, “Sorry”, “I needed you”, we may be regretting it later. Not only to those on the job with us by showing our appreciation, but those right within our homes may need us to say some words of commendation or words like “I need you”, now and then. On happy occasions, how often we fail to speak the generous word at the moment it is most needed. Like passing exams, getting promotions and so on. Do you readily say it now, when congratulations are in order or do you put it off. Sometimes, I say “I’m glad for you,” when a special event takes place in the life of someone we know. Closely akin to congratulations left unsaid is the barrier some of us need to overcome in saying “Thank you”, especially for things or services we take for granted.

How long has it been since you, a husband, thanked your wife for a good meal? My husband loved my cooking, (which I believe is quite good). He never praised me, even just a little. He thought it trivial, not important and had just taken it for granted. I am also guilty so I also shared the same fault of taking him for granted. I had forgotten to thank him for the salary he had brought home every month. I would give anything to say “Thank you” to him now, which is impossible as he had passed away over a year ago. You regret what you had been unable to say, to express your feelings to the ones you love. We have no excuse to offer, other than the usual going-to-do-it later one. When you feel it you should tell them that you care and don’t feel bad. Express it, for whenever we play the “later” game we risk robbing others of the comfort due to them. Don’t swallow your words—tell your special person that he or she holds a treasured place in your heart, and always will—say it now.

The next time you are tempted to put off saying it now, just ask yourself: Is my excuse for delaying honest? Do I hesitate merely from fear of being unable to find words to express appreciation, or to make some needly apology? Remember, the most important thing is not what you say in finished form, but that you clearly establish your desire to say it now and end your put-it-offness. If, for example you need to say “I’m sorry” for any reason whatsoever, do it now! Straighten out the misunderstanding, don’t be proud or if you can’t say it, write it. Send a small note of apology saying you’re sorry. At least say this much that “There are usually two sides—let’s try to see them together.”

In a world which desperately needs caring—Say it Now!

District News  
YANGON, 8 May—A coordination meeting on successfully holding of Asian Youth and Junior Class Weightlifting Championships held by the Ministry of Youth and Sports was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports U Aye Tun Sein. The event was attended by Chairman U Aye Thaung and Librarian Committee Administrator Mr. Shwe Win, Town Clerk Mr. Myint Aung, Assistant Public Relations Department U Thein Oo, Village Administrator U Maung Thaung, Librarian Committee Treasurer U Aye Thaung and well wisher U Hla Aye formally opened the tournament.

The head of Township IPRD explained durability of the structure is 15 feet by 12 feet 8 inches and 15 feet high. Altogether 45 weightlifting teams from Asian countries will take part in the championships.

Myanma Alin contributed by Myanmar Libraries Foundation and K 1.2 million by well wisher U Hla Aye and family.

The structure is 15 feet by 15 foot - storey building.

Books, publications donated to libraries of monastic education school in Pyay Township  
YANGON, 8 May—A ceremony to donate books and publications to libraries of monastic education school was held at Mahā Thūkha Zawtika Monastery of Zawtikayon Palm Tekkatho Kyungtaik in Pyay on 3 May evening with a view to developing the libraries of monastic education schools in Pyay Township. Treasurer U Shwe Win of Pyay Township Writers and Journalists Association donated 1800 books and publications worth K 1 million to State Ovadacarya Pyay Zawtikayon Monastery Abbot Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Suradhaja. The library was built a cost of K 3.5 million for duties and functions, preparation and financial matters.

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ACCAHZ Preparatory Committee meets

The 1st Meeting of ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses ACCAHZ Preparatory Committee in progress.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 May—The 1st Meeting of the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses ACCAHZ Preparatory Committee was held at Sky Palace Hotel here today.

Deputy Director-General of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Aung Gyi delivered an opening address at the meeting.

The meeting was participated by delegates from ASEAN nations, ASEAN Secretariat, Regional Supporting Unit of FAO-RSU, World Health Organization-WHO, OIE, Sub-Regional Representative for Southeast Asia OIE-SRR. During the meeting, they discussed matters on organizing a preparatory committee for establishing the centre for ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses ACCAHZ Preparatory Meeting, roles and tasks of the committee, control of animal health and zoonoses, control of transboundary animal diseases, tasks planned from 2012 to 2017, opening the centre for ASEAN Coordination Centre, fund raising and spending.—MNA

World Red Cross Day...

(from page 16)

Champion of MRCS Dr Tha Hla Shwe addressed the second session of the ceremony.

MRCS Contributing Secretary Dr Hla Pe and officials presented awards to winners in commemorative first aid skill contests and certificates of honour to judges.—MNA

Establishment of political parties scrutinized, passed

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 May—Those wishing to set up a political party has been applying for permission of the Union Election Commission. A total of 15 members including U Khin Tun Oo today submitted an application to found Shan Nationalities League for Democracy to the Union Civil Services Board.

The commission has allowed to set up the party as it found the party’s application is in line with laws and bylaws.—MNA

By Education Minister receives Ambassador to Global Women’s Affairs of USA

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 May—Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe received Ambassador Melanie Verveer to Global Women’s Affairs of the United States of America and party at his office here this afternoon.

During the discussion, both sides discussed implementation of education system in Myanmar, opportunity of learning education for Myanmar Women, conditions of Science Laboratory in Basic Education Schools, informal education, plan to turn out Science and Mathematics scholars, and cooperation matters.—MNA

Tube-well satisfies water demand of Nammyint Hill religious region in Myingyan

Byline: Ko Htwe

A four-inch diameter tube-well was successfully sunk in the precinct of Nammyint Hill religious area where water was shortage in the past in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region so as to supply potable water to the local people for their consumption and to green the region.

As the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maung Yin Paw Monastery who is undertaking missionary work on Nammyint Hill in Myingyan Township said that there was shortage of water for consumption, Myingyan District Water Resources Utilization Department started sinking the tube-well at the designated place with the use of RG-06 on 5 January 2012 and successfully pumped out water from the well on 20 January.

The tube-well pumps out 4000 gallons of water per hour. According to the laboratory test, quality of water can be used for consumption.

At present, water pipeline is laid to supply water to the foot of Nammyint Hill. As a result, Yadana Myingyarn Monastery and Maung Yin Paw Monastery on the hill can enjoy fruits of water supply and greening of environment.

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 7-5-2012
AIDS Knowledge and Hygienic Habit Course conducted

Meiktila District observes Fire Brigade Day

Settlement and Land Records Department concludes Survey Officer Course

Workers’ Day observed in Pantanaw

Bo tree watered at Shwedagon Pagoda in Tachilek

FIRE BRIGADE DAY OBSERVED: A ceremony in commemoration of the 66th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was held at the fire station of Kyaukme District in Shan State (North) on 5 May. Deputy Commissioner U Khin Maung Lay of Kyaukme District General Administration Department delivers an address at the ceremony to mark the Fire Brigade Day 2012.
**20 rescued in transplant raids**

**INTERNET**

Thirty-two people were rescued from a burning bus in Taiwan on Friday, police said, as the death toll from the accident rose to two. The fire, which broke out in a tunnel, trapped passengers in their seats for up to three hours. Police said they were able to rescue 18 people from the bus, which was carrying 40 passengers. They were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

**Army: No bullet wound found in soldier's body**

WASHINGTON, 8 May — Army investigators said Monday they found no bullet wound or evidence of foul play in the death of a soldier in Afghanistan who was killed during a suicide attack on his base last week. The soldier, identified as Pvt. Kevin Clark, collapsed while walking through a tunnel in the base. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Cause of death was ruled a suicide. The body will be sent to the U.S. Army Crime Laboratory for an autopsy.

**Moms cling to chubby ideal for toddlers**

CHICAGO, 8 May — Mothers of overweight toddlers often mistakenly think their children are normal weight, and mothers of underweight toddlers often wish they were plumper, US researchers said on Monday. In a study of 367 children aged 2-5, mothers often do not have a realistic idea of their offspring’s weight, and many still cling to the notion that a chubby child is healthy. “A long time ago, it was OK to value a chubby baby when kids were underweight and we had potato famines and what not. And it was a sign you’re doing well for yourself,” said Erin Hager of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. “But that is not how it is today in the United States,” said Hager, whose study appears in the journal *Journal of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. Hager works with low-income mothers in clinics in Baltimore area to find ways to help prevent obesity, a condition that now affects about 17 percent, or 12.5 million, American children and adolescents ages 2 through 19. Poor children are hit especially hard. As many as one in seven low income preschool-age children are considered obese, according to the US Census Bureau for Disease Control and Prevention. The researchers wanted to get an idea of how moms see their children, and how that might affect the way they feed them. For the study, they used a cartoon drawing of seven diaper-clad toddlers arranged in a row from underweight to obese. Participants were asked to circle the image they thought was most like their child. They found that parents were more likely to choose the image they thought was most like their child. They also found that parents were more likely to choose the image they thought was most like their child. They also found that parents were more likely to choose the image they thought was most like their child.

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San Francisco, 8 May — Officials said a fire that tore through a four-story apartment building in San Francisco has left several dozen people homeless.

The blaze was first reported around 10 am on Sunday in a wooden building in the city’s Mission District. When firefighters arrived, flames and smoke were pouring out of several windows on the top floor of the structure. Flames eventually spread to at least one adjacent building.

American Red Cross spokesman Woody Baker-Cohn says the number of people left homeless was estimated to be around 37, including seven children. He says that number was expected to rise as residents returned to the building.

The Red Cross was working on placing people in either motels or a shelter. The fire was contained by noon. The cause is under investigation.

San Francisco firefighters battle a four-alarm fire at a residential and commercial building on the corner of Valencia Street and Duboce Avenue in San Francisco, on 6 May, 2012.—Ivanars

Guantanamo Bay US Naval Base, 8 May — Prosecutors and defense attorneys for five defendants in the 11 September attacks dug in on Sunday for a long legal battle that one lawyer said may never be resolved.

The military tribunal is not expected to start for almost another year and if Saturday’s 13-hour arraignment was an accurate preview, the trial will be chaotic and drawn out with continuing disputes about evidence and whether a military courtroom sketch will be reviewed and approved.

The defendants on Saturday refused to enter pleas and demanded a full reading of the charges against them. The proceeding was interrupted by outbursts from the defendants, one of whom stripped off his shirt to show scars. The judge, Army Colonel James Pohl, set the next hearing for 12 June and said the trial will not start

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on 5 May, 2012.—Reuters

New York, 8 May — AT&T Inc is making a big investment in a nationwide wireless home monitoring service that could potentially add $1 billion to its annual revenue as part of the No 2 US mobile operator’s ongoing effort to expand beyond cell phones. It is planning a service called “Digital Life” to monitor homes for everything from water damage to burglaries and to customers remotely do things like adjust temperature or unlock doors, using an Internet connection.

The service, of which AT&T will start trials this year, involves sensors and cameras linked to a central home system that connects wirelessly to AT&T monitoring centres, said Glenn Lurie, the AT&T executive spearheading the project.

Lurie said, in an interview with Reuters ahead of the CTIA wireless show in New Orleans, where AT&T will announce the plan Monday, that AT&T is hiring “lots of people” to support the service. He did not want to set a specific revenue target for the business but said he sees it as one of AT&T’s largest revenue growth opportunities, “if not the largest,” with “very significant” incremental growth in 2013. When you’re a company like AT&T... you look at opportunities that are billion-dollar opportunities,” Lurie said.

“Obviously to grow our business at any level, when you’re a $130 billion plus company, you have to look for significant opportunities. We view this as a significant opportunity.”—Reuters

New York, 8 May — More than 100 years after researchers first explored the potential to harness the body’s immune system to fight cancer, the field’s leading doctors see the concept finally proving itself on a large scale in the next year or two.

Two drugs based on immunotherapy are already available and have met with mixed results. Bristol-Myers Squibb’s Yervoy has been hailed as a major breakthrough for treatment of melanoma since its approval last year. Meanwhile, the statement urged to step up the crackdown on piracy of dictionaries and reference books.

Xinhua

China successfully launched its Tianhui I-02 mapping satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China’s Gansu province on 3:10 pm on Sunday.

A Long March 2D carrier rocket, has been launched into space in August 2010. The satellite, which was launched using a Long March-2C carrier rocket, has been successfully sent the country’s first satellite, the Dongfanghong-1, into space.—Xinhua

AT&T making big investment in home monitoring

The statement also encouraged press and publication administrative agencies to donate dictionaries and other basic reference books for the rural primary and secondary school students. Moreover, the administration urged in a statement.

China provides dictionaries for rural students

BEIJING, 8 May — China’s General Administration of Press and Publication has urged further efforts to ensure the accessibility of dictionaries in order to ensure the timely supply of the dictionary at the bottom price. The administration said in a statement.

The statement also encouraged press and publication administrative agencies to donate dictionaries and other basic reference books for the rural primary and secondary school students. Moreover, the administration urged in a statement.

China launches new mapping satellite

An At&T logo is seen atop a store in Beverly Hills, California. —Reuters

China provides dictionaries for rural students

Walid Bin Attash, also spelled Walid bin Attash, appears at his arraignment as an accused 9/11 co-conspirator in this courtroom sketch reviewed and approved for publication administrative publication in order to ensure the timely supply of the dictionary at the bottom price. The administration said in a statement.

REUTERS

REUTERS

Official say 37 left homeless in San Francisco fire

An At&T logo is seen atop a store in Beverly Hills, California. —Reuters

Xinhua

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REUTERS

REUTERS

China launches new mapping satellite
Micron wins exclusive right to bid for Elpida

TOKYO, 8 May — Micron Technology won the right to negotiate exclusively to buy Elpida Memory Inc's assets offering more than $200 billion yen ($2.5 billion) for the failed Japanese chipmaker, according to the source with direct knowledge of the deal that would more than double the US company's daily global market share.

By acquiring Elpida, Micron would boost its memory chips used in personal computers, according to US technology research firm IHS Suppli. Samsung Electronics is the largest.

Elpida, which also makes chips used in smartphones and tablets, has been searching for an investor after filing for bankruptcy protection in February with $448 billion yen in liabilities. Micron's $155 billion worth of cash and short-term investments would be used to repay the US company's current $1.1 billion of convertible senior notes in April.

In the final round of bidding that closed last Friday, Micron also offered to keep open Elpida's two main factories in Japan and guarantee jobs for the company's current employees for the time being, the source said. Those promises helped it to outrun several key bidders of the chipmaker's operations, the source said, declining to be identified because the negotiations are confidential.

With investors concerned about how much stockholders might pay, its shares have fallen about 20 percent since late March when it was first identified as a bidder for Elpida.

Waddell & Reed analyst Brad Warden said Micron's offer was a billion dollars more than he had expected but that the potential tie-up would improve the company's DRAM module making and probably more stability from a pricing perspective.

The most major players in DRAM, which makes it a more rational market, with more rational capital decision-making and probably more stability from a pricing standpoint," Warden said. Micron held $2.1 billion of cash and short-term investments, while long-term debt totaled $2.2 billion, according to the company's earnings statement for the quarter ended March 1. It issued an additional $870 million of convertible senior notes in April.

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"The president is aware of all prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and will not negotiate," a senior US official, who asked not to be identified, said Monday of the video plea. "I do not know that he's seen the video—released by al-Qaeda on Sunday—that shows al-Qaeda militants. "We remain greatly concerned for Mr Weinstein's safety and his family. We condemn his kidnapping in the strongest terms and call for his immediate release."

The US government will continue making every effort to see Mr Weinstein released safely to his family, but we cannot and will not negotiate with al-Qaeda."

"Our hearts go out to him and his family. We condemn his kidnapping in the strongest terms and call for his immediate release."

The demands made by al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri include the release of all prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and an end to attacks by the United States and its allies on al-Qaeda militants.

A white brain scan shows areas of reduced gray matter volume in the medial prefrontal cortex, a key region in psychopathic group of antisocial men compared to the non-psychopathic group of antisocial men.

"Dog food salmonella recall expanded in US, Canada

NEW YORK, 8 May — Diamond Pet Foods has expanded a recall of its dry dog food, taking precautionary steps after several of its brands were linked to an outbreak of a rare strain of salmonella poisoning that infected at least 14 people in nine states. The company said it was now pulling a total of nine brands of its dry dog food products from stores.

In April, it began the recall by pulling three brands. The salmonella cases were found in humans who may have had contact with dogs or dog foods prior to their illness. The additional brands have been recalled as a precaution and none had tested positive for salmonella, according to a statement issued by the company on Saturday.

The products were distributed in 16 states, mostly along the US East Coast, and Canada. Another dog food company, WellPet LLC, also said it was recalling one of its brands as a precaution. The demands made by al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri include the release of all prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and an end to attacks by the United States and its allies on al-Qaeda militants.

The White House on al-Qaeda hostage plea: ‘We cannot and will not negotiate’

WASHINGTON, 8 May — President Barack Obama is aware of the video—released by al-Qaeda on Sunday—that shows an American hostage’s desperate plea for help and is "greatly concerned" for his safety, but refuses to negotiate with the terror group.

"The president is aware of it," White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said Sunday of the video plea. "I do not believe he’s seen it, or do not know that he’s seen it.""My life is in your hands, Mr President," Warren Weinstein, the 70-year-old hostage, said in the two-minute video, posted on several Islamist websites. "If you accept the demands, I live. If you don’t accept the demands, then I die.""We remain greatly concerned for Mr Weinstein’s safety and his well-being," Carney continued."

"Our hearts go out to him and his family. We condemn his kidnapping in the strongest terms and call for his immediate release."

The US government will continue making every effort to see Mr Weinstein released safely to his family, but we cannot and will not negotiate with al-Qaeda."

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"The demands made by al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri include the release of all prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and an end to attacks by the United States and its allies on al-Qaeda militants.

"We remain greatly concerned for Mr Weinstein’s safety and his well-being," Carney continued.
Man finds turtle with son’s initials on it

A Pennsylvania man said he recently found a live turtle his son carved his initials into 47 years ago.

Holland Cokely, 85, was walking in the woods behind his South Strabane home with his neighbour’s dog when the dog found the turtle. KDKA-TV, Pittsburgh, reported.

“I picked it up, and I thought, ‘Oh geez, this is Jeff’s turtle,’” said Cokely. “It’s been here for 47 years, and it still has the same markings on it!”

In 1965, Jeff Cokely, then 13, carved “JC” and “1965” on the turtle’s bottom shell and then released it back into the wild. He now lives in New York but laughed off his father’s advice that he take a picture of the turtle, Holland Cokely said.

Experts say some eastern box turtles can live for 100 years.

Holland Cokely said he kept the turtle for a few days, then released it.

Tightrope walker prepares to cross Niagara Falls

Chilean police put on a motorcycle stunt show, in Constitution Square, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the institution. In this stunt, a police officer wears a Ninja Turtle costume jumps off a chain of humans and through a ring of fire.

Nicole Richie feels great about body

WASHINGTON, 8 May — Nicole Richie has revealed that she now feels great about her body after going through a thinner phase. The daughter of singer Lionel Richie, who found fame starring on “The Real Life” alongside Paris Hilton, opened up about revealing her own negative views in 2006. She confessed that although she can be critical of her fuller figure, she tries to ignore her own negative views and is proud of the positive steps she’s taken.

“I feel great about my body,” Contactmusic quoted her as telling Glamour magazine. “You know, aesthetically I can be picky, but I choose not to. I’ve taken huge leaps. I’m proud of that,” she said.

“I would go back to my old life and I told my mother I didn’t want to do it anymore, but that pushed her into the music industry.”

Bearing and cubs spend day in neighbourhood

Authorities in California said a mother black bear and her two cubs headed back into the wilderness after spending the day in a residential neighbourhood.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department said the California black bears, which actually have brown fur, were first spotted eating leftover birthday cake from a garage can in an Alhambra man’s driveway Thursday morning and they spent most of the morning and afternoon nursing and napping in a pair of nearby trees, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The sheriff’s department said the bears wandered the area a bit before heading back into the wilderness around sunset.

Nicole Richie

Nicole Richie

Nicole Richie

Nicole Richie

Rita Wilson jumps into music world

LOS ANGELES, 8 May — Actress Rita Wilson said she doesn’t believe her marriage to Hollywood mega-star Tom Hanks will give her fledgling singing career much of a boost.

Wilson, 55, has been reinventing herself as a songstress and took a major step in the right direction with a weekend appearance at the famed Troubadour nightclub in Los Angeles, Contactmusic reported.

Wilson told CBS she always wanted to be singer and will be curving out her own path in an industry where hubby Hanks doesn’t have a lot of clout. “How is a record label going to say ‘I’m going to do her a favour’?” Wilson said.

Wilson’s Troubadour gig was in support of her first album, which covers tunes from the 1960s and 1970s, and has some star power from the music world behind it. Venerable talents like Jackson Browne, Faith Hill and Cheryl Crow provide vocal support.

Wilson’s resume included 28 movie roles as well as stints on television and Broadway, “I always wanted to sing,” she said. “I didn’t know how to do it.”

Stewart injured in ‘Twilight’ sequel shoot

LOS ANGELES, 8 May — Actress Kristen Stewart injured her foot while shooting for “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2.” They were canning a scene where her vampire character Bella Swan goes on her first hunt, when the accident happened. “The first hunt is always so important. I just wanted more of it. We all wanted more of it,” Stewart said.

“She is in a lot of pain, but she is doing much better now,” Stewart’s representative said.

Gaga loves being alone

HOLLYWOOD, 8 May — Singer Lady Gaga says she began to cherish her loneliness when she was 20, but admits it eventually led her to cocaine addiction.

“I began to cherish my loneliness. I have, sort of, since I was around 20 years old,” contactmusic.com quoted Gaga as saying.

The singer, who recently split with “Vampire Diaries” actor Taylor Kinney, said she was depressed in her youth but that pushed her into the music industry.

“I was very depressed when I was 19. I decided to pursue music, so I dropped out of school and I told my parents I didn’t want any money from them. I got three jobs and I just hit the ground running,” she said.

“I would go back to my apartment every day and I would just sit there. It was quiet and it was lonely. It was still it, it was just my piano and myself.

I had at television and I wouldn’t leave it all the time just to feel like somebody was hanging out with me,” she added.

However, Gaga’s life of solace in New York did lead her to start using cocaine heavily and even though the drug is associated with partying, she started taking it on her own.

“When I was doing cocaine, it was like the drug was my friend. I never did it with other people. It’s such a terrible way to fill that void, because it just adds to that void, because it’s not real,” she said.

Eventually she decided to give up the drug.

Local tourism director resigns after buying a yacht for Okaloosa County

A former tourism director in Okaloosa County, Fla, acknowledged using public money for a $57,000 yacht was a mistake.

Mark Bellinger resigned Tuesday as head of the Tourism Development Council in Okaloosa County, the Northwest Florida Daily News reported.

He said the luxury yacht was intended to be a vehicle for promotional campaigns for the county, which is in the Florida panhandle.

Bellinger met with angry county commissioners and argued he was doing the best for the county when he made the purchase, which was paid for by a tax on hotel stays.

But he agreed he should not have spent that kind of money without consulting anyone else. “I did put the cart before the horse,” he said. “It was a mistake in judgment on my part.”

Commissioners now want to sell the boat, which has been sitting at a Destin yacht club since it was purchased in December.

“I want to get rid of it as fast as possible with a good deal for the county,” Commissioner Bill Roberts said.

“It’s an embarrassment to the county to have that titled in the county’s name.”

While officials say there is no evidence of criminal wrongdoing, they are checking the accounts to see what other purchases Bellinger might have made.

In this file image released by Lionsgate, Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen, left, and Liam Hemsworth portrays Gale Hawthorne in a scene from “The Hunger Games.”—Internet

‘Hunger Games’ to hit China in June

HOLLYWOOD, 8 May — China has given the green light for the premier of the US blockbuster “The Hunger Games” this summer, the film’s distributor said this weekend.

Lionsgate said the pending June release in China will be the first under a new revenue-sharing agreement that will enable Western distributors to pocket up to 25 percent of a film’s Chinese box office receipts.

Lionsgate executives said in a written statement that “The Hunger Games” had the potential to repeat the huge business it did after its North American release, which has totalled $380 million so far.

“China is already one of the leading territories at the international box office, and the launch of ‘The Hunger Games’ in this key market is another sign of the franchise’s continuing emergence as a truly global phenomenon,” said Patrick Wachsberger and Rob Friedman, co-chairmen of Lionsgate Motion Picture Group.

In this image released by Lionsgate, Liana Liberato portrays Primrose Everdeen, left, and Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen in “The Hunger Games.”—Image

News Album

Authorised
Chelsea aim for fresh Reds misery after FA Cup win

London, 8 May — Roberto di Matteo’s Chelsea side will face Liverpool at Anfield on Tuesday with renewed hope of securing the top four finish that would guarantee their Champions League qualification. The two teams will meet just three days after the FA Cup final that ended with Chelsea celebrating a third success in the competition in four years following a 2-1 victory at Wembley. And while Liverpool have only pride to play for in the rematch, di Matteo’s men were given fresh incentive as Newcastle and Tottenham stumbled in their quest for maximum points.

Had either of those two teams won last weekend, Chelsea’s hopes of finishing fourth in the Premier League would have all but disappeared. That would have left the Stamford Bridge club needing to win the Champions League final against Bayern Munich to ensure a return to Europe’s premier club competition — and consign the fourth-best team in England to the second-tier Europa League. But Chelsea could yet provide themselves with an insurance policy against losing the Champions League final by finishing fourth.

That would happen if they beat Liverpool and Blackburn in their final two league games and Newcastle and Tottenham and Newcastle failed to defeat Fulham and Everton respectively on Sunday. The odds are stacked heavily against them, but Chelsea’s end-of-season revival has shown the danger of dismissing their chances. First, though, they must carry on where they left off at Wembley.

“It’ll be a bit weird playing them (Liverpool) again so soon after this,” Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard said. — Internet

Almagro adds to Djokovic concerns over Madrid’s blue clay

Madrid, 8 May — Spanish clay-court specialist Nicolas Almagro did little on Monday to ease world number one Novak Djokovic’s concerns about the controversial blue clay court at the Madrid Open after beating Santiago Giraldo 6-7, 6-3, 6-3. Djokovic gets his first opportunity to play on the surface when he starts his campaign at the Madrid Open tennis tournament on 7 May, 2012.

“Being so close to Roland Garros, we would prefer to play on red clay. This surface isn’t in the best of conditions,” Almagro told reporters at Madrid’s Magic Box Arena. “It’s very slippery and I hope there aren’t any injuries.” Djokovic lost to his great rival Rafa Nadal in his last outing in the final of the Monte Carlo Open in April but returns to a venue where he beat the world number two Harrison was celebrating his 200th birthday on his debut at the tournament and beat Sergiy Stakhovsky 7-6, 7-6 to set up a meeting with fourth-seeded seeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. Russian qualifier Igor Andreev overcame world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero in straight sets 7-5, 7-6 while his compatriot Maks Mirnyy progressed past Javier Marti. Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis fell to wild card Spanish Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 while Colombia’s Alejandro Falla and Viktor Troicki also went through. — Reuters

Mauricio Pellegrino named as new Valencia coach

Madrid, 8 May — Spanish La Liga club Valencia announced Monday that former defender Mauricio Pellegrino will be their new coach for the next two seasons. The decision which was announced by Valencia President, Manuel Llorente put an end to rumours over the future of current coach Emery. The Spaniard when Benitez was sacked in December of 2010 and left the club with the Spaniard when Benitez was sacked in December of the same year.

The former Argentinean international faces a difficult job in following Emery, given that Valencia has sold to help key players, such as David Villa, David Silva and Juan Mata in recent years to help clear its large debt, while the club is known for having some of the most demanding fans in Spain.

O’Sullivan claims fourth world title

Sheffield, 8 May — Ronnie O’Sullivan defeated Allister Carter 18-11 in the snooker world championship final on Monday in a match that saw the 13th in the world rankings, lost the first day’s competition 10-7 and gave little chance to 18th-ranked Carter on Monday, winning his fourth world title at the Crucible Theatre. It was almost a repeat of 2008 world champion final, when O’Sullivan beat Carter 11-8.

Serena Williams wins, Venus bows out at Madrid

Madrid, 8 May — Serena Williams beat Maria Veskina 6-3, 6-1 to reach the Madrid Open’s second round, while sister Venus lost 6-4, 6-1 to Angelique Kerber on Monday. The ninth-seeded Williams had 13 aces and 40 winners against Veskina, who was struggling with her game on the slippery blue clay court. The Russian lost her balance in the sixth game and set up a break point for Williams, who pulled ahead to lead 4-2.

Williams’ ninth ace of the match provided a set point for the sixth-ranked American to take the first set and wrap up the match against the 68th-ranked Russian in just over an hour.

“I’m feeling good but I wasn’t thrilled,” said Williams, who will face Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia. “This is my first tournament in Europe so hopefully I will just keep my good form and just keep going,” she added.

Serena Williams from US returns the ball to Elena Vesnina from Russia during the Madrid Open tennis tournament, in Madrid, on 7 May, 2012. — Internet

IndyCar tests new car at high-banked Texas

Fort Worth, 8 May — Will Power has certainly been good in the IndyCar Series’ new car, winning three of the four races this season. All of those were on road and street courses. IndyCar drivers are now preparing for the biggest test of how the new cars with less downforce will perform on oval tracks, especially when teams have more flexibility in setups. “What we’re trying to do is to try to ensure that it’s not a puck race like it has been in the past, and like it was in Vegas,” Power said.

Wheldon was killed when his car sailed into the fence in a 15-car accident, and his head hit a post in the fence. “A report later determined that pack racing on a high-banked oval contributed to the accident,” said IndyCar’s first open test on a 1-mile track since Wheldon’s accident. The Indianapolis 500 will be the first of four oval races in a five-week span. Texas, which hosts the series on 9 June, is a high-banked oval like the Las Vegas track also owned by Bruton Smith. “There’s always concern, especially after what happened in Vegas,” said Scott Dirom.

IndyCar driver Rubens Barrichello takes to the track from pit row during IndyCar testing at Texas Motor Speedway on 7 May, 2012, in Fort Worth, Texas. — Internet

Mauricio Pellegrino led Valencia to fourth in the Premier League and the UEFA Cup. — Internet

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**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(9-5-12)(Wednesday)

1. Parrita By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
2. Upasanti Paritta
3. To Be Healthy
4. Documentary
5. Musical Programme
6. Martial Song
7. Melodious Song
8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
9. Classical Song
10. Topiplay (Industry)
11. "ASEAN" Programme
12. Traditional Boxing
13. Movie
14. News
15. Korea NG Award
16. TV Drama Series
17. Performance of Chinese Acrobatic Troupe

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**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

**Fire Brigade Day observed in Pakokku**

**Weather forecast for 9th May, 2012**

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**Marine forces of China, Thailand hold joint training**

**Beijing, 8 May—** Marine forces of China and Thailand will hold joint military training in south China’s Guangdong province from 9 to 29 May, sources with Ministry of National Defence said Tuesday. The training, called Blue Commandos-2012, will be conducted in Zhanjiang and Shanwei of the province in line with an agreement reached by the two countries’ navies, according to the ministry’s information office. The training will be the second of its kind by the two navies’ marine forces since 2010, and it will feature anti-terrorism and increase mutual understanding of the two forces, a ministry spokesman said.

**Gunmen shoot dead, abduct Lebanese in Nigeria**

**KADUNA, 8 May—** Gunmen in northern Nigeria’s Kaduna state on Monday shot dead a Libyan man and his Nigerian driver and abducted another Lebanese national, the state police spokesman said. “The gunmen attacked the construction bus in which they were travelling, shot dead a Libyan and his Nigerian driver and kidnapped another Lebanese,” the spokesman said.

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**IAEA expert dies in Iran’s car accident: media**

**THEHAN, 8 May—** An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expert died in a car accident in central Iran, local media reported on Tuesday. Two experts of IAEA were injured Tuesday in a car accident while they were on a mission near Khondab heavy water production facilities in a central province of Iran, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported. One of the experts, named Oke-Seok Seo from South Korea, died due to the bad injury, said the report.

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**Vattenfall cleared to build 299 MW wind farm in Wales**

**LONDON, 8 May—** Swedish energy Vattenfall has been cleared to build a 299 megawatt wind farm at an active coal mine in south Wales, the government said on Tuesday. The 76 turbine Pen Y Cyromedd development, which will have the highest generating capacity of any onshore wind farm in England or Wales, will power up to 200,000 homes.

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**Maids die in Singapore; Indonesia calls for safety**

**SINGAPORE, 8 May—** Eight Indonesian maids have fallen to their deaths from high-rise apartments in Singapore this year, and the Indonesia Embassy said Tuesday it is pushing for a ban on cleaning outside windows. Indonesia, which supplies about half of Singapore’s 200,000 maids, has asked employment agencies to include a clause in work contracts that prohibits maids from cleaning the outside of windows or hanging laundry from high-rise apartments. An Indonesian Embassy Counsellor Sukmo Yuvono told the Associated Press, "It's upsetting. These human beings are dying for nothing," Yuvono said. Singapore is under pressure to improve the working conditions of foreign maids, who live full-time in one of five households in the city-state of 5.2 million people. In March, the government pledged to mandate at least one day off a week for maids starting next year.

Last week, a court fined an employer 5,000 Singapore dollars ($4,993) and barred her from hiring domestic workers in the future after a maid fell and died from her fifth-floor apartment last year while cleaning windows standing on a stool. Eight maids, all Indonesian, have died after falling out of windows while working this year, five of whom were cleaning windows, Singapore’s Manpower Ministry said. Four maids fell to their deaths in 2011.

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**UNIFORMED PROVIDES: Township Administration**

**Pakokku, 8 May—** In commemoration of the 66th Anniversary Fire Services Day 2012, the Deputy Commissioner, the township administrator and district and township commanders of Police Force awarded the winners in the contests on 5 May. Members of the fire brigade demonstrated their skills in rescue works and fire fighting works.—**Myanm@Alin

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**Ministry of Defence**

**COEDMED development, which will have the highest generating capacity of any onshore wind farm in England or Wales, will power up to 200,000 homes.**

**Onshore wind plays an important role in enhancing our energy security. It is the cheapest form of renewable energy and reduces our reliance on foreign fuel,** energy minister Charles Hendry said in a statement. The government gave consent in return for assurances future extraction of coal from under the site of the wind farm would be safeguarded, it said.

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**Charity**

**A winfarm is seen on Anglesey, north Wales 2 May, 2011.**

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Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, receives Global Women’s Affairs Ambassador

NAV PYI TAW, 8 May—Patron of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, received Global Women’s Affairs Ambassador Melanne Verveer and party at the Presidential Palace here at 11 am today.

Also present at the call together with Daw Khin Khin Win were wife of Union Foreign Affairs Minister Daw Lin Lin Tin, President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Mon Mon Aung, Chairperson of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association Daw Wah Wah Tun and officials.

The meeting focused on boosting maternal and child welfare cooperation between the two countries, health development of women, women empowerment, cooperation in tasks of Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association, combat against human trafficking and cooperation with international community in eliminating violence against women in Myanmar.—MNA

Patron of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation
Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President of Myanmar, receives Global Women’s Affairs Ambassador Melanne Verveer at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

World Red Cross Day marked in Nay Pyi Taw

NAV PYI TAW, 8 May—A ceremony to mark 2012 World Red Cross Day and to award winners in first aid contests was held at auditorium of Myanmar Red Cross Society in Dekhinaung Township here this morning, attended by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Than Aung, Chairman of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Tha Hla Shwe, officials of International Red Cross Society, Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross, and Danish Red Cross, departmental officials, and members of social organizations.

The Union Minister said in his address more young people in Myanmar must be trained to provide social services.

Under the policy framework and directives of the State, members of Myanmar Red Cross Society are to abide by Red Cross principles in cooperating with international Federation of Red Cross organizations, local Red Cross societies and NGOs.

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Price presenting ceremony for red cross members of 2012 World Red Cross Day and first aid contests in progress.—MNA