President U Thein Sein receives Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Radoslaw Sikorski at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this afternoon.

Their meeting focused on fostering friendly ties between the two countries established since 1955; sector-wise cooperation between Myanmar and Poland as the two countries share common historical, political, economic and transitional aspects; political developments in Myanmar; progress in internal peace; and promoting democracy as Myanmar is on the right path.

They also frankly exchanged views on economic development in Myanmar, suspension and lifting of sanctions imposed by European Union for creating more employment opportunities, targeted investments of Poland in factories, dockyards, rail transportation, and energy sector, and assistance for human resources development and technology sector.

Present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Hla Min, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, and departmental heads.

The Polish Foreign Affairs Minister was accompanied by Polish Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Jerzy Bayer and senior officials.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shaking hands with Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Radoslaw Sikorski at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace. —MNA

US military embraces robots with greater autonomy

A robotic “GUSS” (Ground Unmanned Support Surrogate) vehicle sits at Bellows beach during a training exercise conducted by the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab in Waimanalo, Hawaii, on 11 July, 2010.

Taylor tells doubters to give Hodgson a fair go

Liverpool’s Andy Carroll (L) vies with Chelsea’s Oriol Romeu (C) during their English Premier League match at Anfield, Liverpool, on 8 May. Liverpool won 4-1.

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Significant Day Temperatures (9-5-2012)

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Heart attack one of the leading causes of death globally
What if we don’t respect the Earth?

The quality of human life has improved greatly over the past few centuries, but the Earth is being harmed more and more by human activity.

As we develop our technology, we use more and more natural resources and cause more and more pollution. As our population grows, we destroy more and more natural areas to expand towns and cities.

We often act as if we had inexhaustible natural resources. Today, human activity across the world is indiscriminate such as cutting down too many trees, catching too many fish, disposing of too much garbage, using too much fuel. As a result of such indiscriminate human activity, our world of today has experienced global warming and various natural disasters like severe storms and rising sea levels stemming from ice melting.

If we aren’t careful about how we use our natural resources, we will lose many of them. Indeed, we are already losing some.

Moreover, we don’t seem to pay attention to the amount of pollution human activity can cause. Now, many countries of the world are suffering air pollution, water pollution as well as soil pollution. Coupled with climate change, declining natural resources may lead to difficult survival for the entire humanity in the long run.

We therefore need to respect the Earth and try to preserve it. If we don’t, we will lose all the natural resources that we depend on for life. What if we don’t respect the Earth?
Putin and Medvedev complete job swap in Russia

MOSCOW, 9 May—Russia’s lower house of parliament confirmed former president Dmitry Medvedev as Prime Minister on Tuesday, completing a job swap with Vladimir Putin that has sparked protests against the two leaders’ grip on power.

The approval vote, comfortably won by Medvedev as Putin looked on, ignored growing concern in the country that keeping power in the hands of the same men who have led Russia for the past four years will bring political and economic stagnation.

Police led away more than 20 people, including two opposition leaders, when they broke up a peaceful protest near the Kremlin hours before the vote, after detaining more than 700 on the previous two days to keep a lid on dissent.

“They just started to grab people and put them in police buses,” said Alexander Delfinov, 40, who was held for hours and ordered to appear in court on Friday, facing a fine or up to 15 days in jail.

Activists regrouped later and were chased around central Moscow by police who hemmed them in and detained dozens more. In Twitter posts from police vans, prominent opposition activist Alexei Navalny and Ksenia Sobachek, a television host who has fallen out with Putin, said they were among those detained—Navalny for the second time in a day.

The United States said it was concerned by arrests and by clashes that erupted at a rally on Sunday, a day before Putin’s inauguration as president, when police beat demonstrators with batons and some protesters wielded pieces of metal fencing and shrapnel.

US military embraces robots with greater autonomy

Penn Hills, 9 May—The unattended steering wheel on the 15-ton military truck jerked sharply back and forth as the vehicle’s huge tires bounced down a rain-scarred ravine through mounds of mine rubble on a rugged hillside near Pittsburgh.

A robotic “GUSS” (Ground Unmanned Support Surrogate) vehicle sits at Bellows beach during a training exercise for experimental communications conducted by the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab in Waimanalo, Hawaii, on 11 July, 2010.—Reuters

Death toll from S Philippine fire rises to 18

DAVAO CITY, 9 May—Six more bodies were recovered from beneath the rubble, bringing to 18 the number of fatalities in Wednesday’s fire that razed a commercial complex in southern Philippines, police said.

At least four people are still missing and are believed to be trapped under the collapsed building in downtown Butuan City, in Mindanao’s Agusan del Norte province, according to Superintendent Martin Gamba, Caraga police regional spokesman.

“So far, 18 bodies have already been retrieved. Police and rescuers are still searching for at least four more reportedly trapped,” Gamba told Xinhua by mobile phone.

An investigation is now underway following allegations that most of the victims, all-stay-in-salesladies of the commercial center owned by Chinese-Filipino trader Hoy Tan, were not able to escape as the door leading out of the establishment was padlocked tight.

Most of the dead were employees of local apparel retailer Novo Jeans and Shirts.

Police helicopter crash kills eight in Brazil

RED DE JANEIRO, 9 May—A helicopter from Brazil’s Military Police crashed on Tuesday in the central-western state of Goias, killing eight people aboard.

The crash site is about 30 km from Piranhas City. Among the victims is Aparecida Souza Alvez, the murder who killed seven people two weeks ago in the Goias state, police sources said.

The other victims include the pilot and copilot, two policemen and three experts.

The helicopter exploded in the air Tuesday afternoon as it was flying back from Doverlandia, where the mass murder occurred, to Goiania, the capital city of Goias.

The cause of the incident is still under investigation.

Alvez, 23, had been charged with killing a farm owner and six others along with three accomplices in late April.

Fire breaks out in Bangkok community

BANGKOK, 9 May—Fire broke out at a residential community in urban Bangkok, Thailand’s capital, on Wednesday morning, local media reported.

The blaze started at a commercial building in the Wat Yuan community of Dusit district and spread to nearby houses. Firefighters were trying to keep the fire under control. Casualties remained unknown, Bangkok Post reported on website.

Cameron says Euro needs single government

LONDON, 9 May—A successful euro zone requires if it is to work properly, Prime Minister David Cameron said in a newspaper interview on Wednesday.

“There’s nowhere in the world that has a single currency without having more of a single government,” Cameron told Daily Mail.

“Making sense of the euro for me would mean that those euro zone countries would have to have much more co-ordinated economic policy, much more co-ordinated debt policy,” he said.

Cameron, who opted out of a new European economic pact late last year, advocated Britain’s position outside the euro and its ability “to do things to ourselves, for ourselves, by ourselves.

“I have always believed different countries at times will need different economic policies, interest rates tailored to their own needs,” Cameron said, however, that it is in Britain’s interest to see a return to growth in the euro zone, which accounts for 40 percent of UK exports.—Reuters

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World’s most expensive armoured SUV goes on sale for USD 500k

LONDON, 9 May—The world’s fastest and safest armoured SUV, that featured in Sacha Baron Cohen’s new movie “The Dictator,” has been listed for a whopping 500,000 dollars.

Ten of the Dartz Prombron Aladegen Edition, a nod to Cohen’s character Admiral General Aladegen, has been made available to the public.

According to a Dartz press release announcing the new offering: “His Excellency Admiral General Aladegen has graciously granted his express permission for Dartz Motorz, manufacturer of ultra-luxury armoured vehicles and exclusive provider to the life on our planet Comandos. We offer limited edition commemorative vehicles honouring the Ruthless Protector of the Precious and Expendable People of Wadiya. Like civil rights in Wadiya, this offer will not be around for long,” the Daily Mail reported.

The Latvian auto manufacturer at the Top Marques Show 2012 in Monaco unveiled the original gold-plated sports vehicle last month.

Having produced armoured vehicles in the past for Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky and Tsar Nicholas, carmakers at Dartz have equipped the limited edition SUV with the safest and most luxurious options.

The new Prombron features bullet proof windows with three-inch thick modified glass, protecting occupants with resistance to rocket-propelled grenades and 50 caliber high velocity armour piercing rounds.

Inside, the SUV is outfitted with champagne bottle chillers and wine racks are also installed for those who enjoy lounging on the road. Outside, the SUV is equipped with eight cameras.

A standard Prombron comes with a choice of ten interior treatments, including leather seats encrusted in diamonds, and, most famously, leather seats made from a whale’s penis.

Antarctic stay to mimic Mars mission

LONDON, 9 May—European scientists said they’ll undergo four months of freezing darkness and isolation in Antarctica in preparation for a possible manned trip to Mars.

The experiment is part of a European Space Agency mission conducting scientific investigations into the effects and requirements of such a trip.

The team of British, French and Italian scientists will test the limit of human endurance by remaining on the Concordia Research Station, high on a plateau of Antarctica, for eight months, Britain’s The Independent reported.

“We’re away from friends, family, McDonald’s Happy Meals and life as you know it,” team member Alexander Kumar, a British emergency room physician, said in an interview via satellite phone. “It really is like living on another planet. We suffer from low oxygen levels as well as isolation.”

The extreme conditions are said to be the closest human beings have come to living on another planet. “We’re about to enter the harshest winter the world has to offer,” Kumar said. “It’s an Antarctic winter and temperatures will drop below minus 90°C (minus 112.3 degrees Fahrenheit)—nothing that’s much different below minus 20°C for me. ‘On top of that, we have four months of complete darkness.’

Kumar said he’s certain the hardships will be more than worth it if the research paves the way to sending people to Mars.

It’s a gas: dinosaur flatulence may have warmed Earth

LIVERPOOL, 9 May—In a major new climate finding, researchers have calculated that dinosaur flatulence could have put enough methane into the atmosphere to warm the planet during the hot, wet Mesozoic era.

Like gigantic, long-necked, prehistoric cows, sauropod dinosaurs roamed widely around the Earth 150 million years ago, scientists reported in the journal Current Biology on Monday.

And just like big cows, their plant digestion was aided by microbes living in sauropod’s stomachs. Researchers found. They reckoned that global methane emissions from sauropods were about 520 million tons per year, comparable to all modern methane emissions.

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But just to send the bling about, “The required SAR levels are set to be even higher than the legal standards for cellphone manufacturers,” Wilkinson said in a statement. In addition, “participants loved being without e-mail, especially if their manager said it was OK. In general, they were much happier to interact in person.”

The team presented the findings at the Association for Computing Machinery’s Computer-Human Interaction Conference in Austin, Texas.

India sets cellphone radiation limits

NEW DELHI, 9 May — The government of India says mobile phone manufacturers must reveal the radiation levels of their handsets starting in September.

The new regulation follows an earlier requirement that all phone manufacturers limit the Specific Absorption Rate to 1.6 watts/kg. SAR is the rate at which a human body absorbs energy from an electromagnetic field.

The US Federal Communications Commission has set the same levels for cellphone manufacturers in the United States.

“Other research has shown that people with steady ‘high alert’ heart rates have more cortisol, a hormone linked to stress. On the job, in turn, has been linked to a variety of health problems,” Mark said in a statement. In addition, “participants loved being without e-mail, especially if their manager said it was OK. In general, they were much happier to interact in person.”

Cardello said the research involved civilian employees who must use computers at the Army’s Natick Soldier Systems Centre outside Boston, who wore heart monitors for the study.

Those with no e-mail reported feeling better able to do their jobs and stay on task, with fewer stressful and time-wasting interruptions, Mark said.

People with e-mail switched windows an average of 37 times per hour, while those without e-mail changed screens half as often—about 18 times in an hour, the researchers said.

A staff member demonstrates cloud computing software to operate airlines, at the booth of Microsoft during preparations at the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover, Germany, 5 March, 2012.—INTERNET
Diabetes drug could treat leading cause of blindness

WASHINGTON, 9 May — US researchers have discovered that a drug already prescribed to millions of people with diabetes could also have another important use: treating one of the world’s leading causes of blindness.

In laboratory rat and cell-culture experiments, the scientists found that metformin, which is commonly used to control blood sugar levels in type 2 diabetes, also substantially reduced the effects of uveitis, an inflammation of the tissues just below the outer surface of the eyeball. Uveitis causes 10 to 15 percent of all cases of blindness in the world and is responsible for an even higher proportion of blindness globally. The only treatment now available for the disorder is steroid therapy, which has serious side effects and cannot be used long-term.

“Uveitis has various causes — the most common are infectious diseases and autoimmune disorders — but they all produce inflammation within the eye,” said Prof. Koti Ramana with the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB), also senior author of a paper on the study published online on Monday in the journal Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science. “Metformin inhibits the process that causes that inflammation,” he added.

The scientists discovered metformin’s efficacy when they tested it in rats given an endotoxin that mimicked the inflammatory effects of bacterial infection. The results showed clearly that metformin was a very effective anti-uveitis agent.

“We found that the drug is therapeutic as well as preventative — if we gave our rats the drug beforehand, they didn’t develop uveitis, and if we gave it after uveitis had developed, it was therapeutic,” said UTMB professor Satish Srivastava. “But chemotherapy is anti-inflammatory properties make this possible,” he noted.

According to the researchers, metformin works by activating an enzyme called AMPK, which in turn dampens the activation of the protein NF-kappa B. The inhibition of NF-kappa B suppresses the production of inflammatory signaling molecules — cytokines and chemokines — needed to initiate and sustain uveitis. Since metformin is already used so widely as a therapy for diabetes, the scientists believe that it has a good chance of being rapidly adopted as an anti-uveitis drug. —Xinhua

Midlife crisis could be linked with dementia

WASHINGTON, 9 May — If you are overcome by a sense of hopelessness, especially during your mid or later life, it could be a sign that you are heading for dementia, the mental decline caused by Alzheimer’s.

“Prevalence and costs of AD (Alzheimer disease) and other dementias are projected to rise dramatically during the next decade unless prevention or a cure can be found,” write researchers from University of California, San Francisco.

“Therefore, it is critical to gain a greater understanding of the key risk factors and pathologic underpinnings of dementia from a population-based perspective,” the Archives of General Psychiatry journal quoted them as saying. Some symptoms of early dementia are forgetting names, appointments, losing things, difficulty in driving, cooking, doing household chores, personality changes (becoming withdrawn), uncharacteristic behaviour, mood swings, and behaviour disorder.

Deborah E Barnes from the university and the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Centre and colleagues evaluated data from 13,535 long-term Kaiser Permanente members. Barnes also examined depressive symptoms assessed in midlife (1964-73) and in late life (1994-2000) and risks of developing dementia.

Depressive symptoms were present in 14.1 percent of study participants in midlife, 9.2 percent in late life and 4.2 percent in both. During six years of follow-up, 22.5 percent of patients were diagnosed with dementia and 5.5 percent with Alzheimer disease. — Internet

New jab offers cancer cure hope

LONDON, 9 May — A new injection, targeting the disease and affected by cancer, shows promise to reduce treatment side effects and improve cure rates, researchers say.

Injecting drugs into the arteries of cancer patients, instead of veins, could be more effective in reaching head and neck cancer tumours, a study found.

Engineers and scientists at the University of Glasgow and NHS Lothian said the approach, if successful in potential human trials next year, could also be applied to other cancers, the researchers reported.

Generally, chemotherapy and radiotherapy are administered in a “drip” throughout the patient’s body, including the cancer, which is toxic to healthy tissues. This work runs in parallel to the chemotherapy. The researchers of the computational fluid dynamics (cfd) group in Glasgow University’s School of Engineering, have been working to come up with a new method of using intra-arterial delivery.

This would focus chemotherapy drugs in the area around the tumour, with lower doses for the organs vulnerable to toxicity.

It is expected that this method would result in higher cure rates and fewer side effects. Dr Munosh PAul, who led the flow-modelling research team, applied fluid dynamics techniques to model the distribution and concentration of chemotherapy drugs around a head and neck tumour.

“Something injected into the vein goes to the heart, then to the cancer. But when injected into the artery, it goes to the cancer first. Our goal is to prove this is better,” he said. “There are some sub-arteries you could block during treatment to help focus the chemotherapy. The computer model is working.”

This work runs in parallel with lab studies looking at the ideal delivery method to achieve each patient’s dose. —Internet

IMF chief urges balanced policies for higher, better growth

WASHINGTON, 9 May — Global policymakers should strike a balance between austerity and growth in designing economic policies to deliver faster and better growth, as fiscal adjustment and other headwinds weighed down the global economy, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde said Monday.

The global economy needs “higher and better” growth. Getting there depends on choosing the right combination of policies, Lagarde said during a speech in Zurich, Switzerland.

“With the world on the brink of losing a decade of growth, a generation of young people, and an opportunity to put the global economy on a secure footing. We dare not fail,” according to her written speech. Among the advanced economies, the output gap — the difference between what an economy is producing and what it can produce — remains close to 4 percent this year on average, noted the managing director of the Washington-based global lender, adding that “austerity versus growth is very much the debate of the hour”.

Lagarde called the fight a “false debate”, as policymakers could design a strategy that is “good for today and good for tomorrow”. In the short run, demand matters most for growth and jobs. But loose monetary policies in some advanced countries have not ignited strong recovery, as the growth is being held back by three “brakes” in the system — fiscal adjustment, weak banks and poor housing markets, she said.

Advanced economies need to tackle their mountain of debt, as the ratio of debt to gross domestic product (GDP) among the advanced economies is expected to hit 109 percent next year, the largest ratio since World War II, Lagarde added.—Xinhua

US biodiesel production record high in 2011

HOUSTON, 9 May — US production of biodiesel reached a record high of 967 million gallons in the year of 2011, the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) said Monday.

The country’s biodiesel production was 109 million gallons in December 2011, which was also a record level, according to new data released by the agency.

US annual biodiesel production was 516 million gallons in 2009. Production fell to 343 million gallons in 2010 but rebounded to 967 million gallons in 2011, said EIA.

Soybean oil was the country’s largest biodiesel feedstock in 2011, with a total of 4.136 million pounds consumed. The next three largest biodiesel feedstocks during 2011 were canola oil, at 847 million pounds, yellow grease and other recycled feedstocks, at 665 million pounds, and white grease, 533 million pounds, EIA added.

Xinhua
**Four killed, 10 missing in Indonesian floods**

**Jakarta, 9 May**—Floods carrying volcanic debris swept through a town in eastern Indonesia on Monday, killing four people, including a nine-year-old child, and leaving 10 others missing, a government official said.

A further 15 people were injured after floodwaters rampaged through 11 villages in Terrane City in North Maluku Province, national disaster mitigation agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said. “Floods carrying volcanic mud from Mount Gamalama, which forms the entire island of Terrane in the Maluku chain, which erupted and spewed a column of ash 2,000 metres (6,500 feet) into the air in December. Two rivers on the eastern side of the volcano overflowed Wednesday, carrying mud and toxic algae which could ruin the lakes’ $7 billion fishery and devour the bottom of the food chain and crowd out other fish species. They could ruin the lakes’ $7 billion fishery and potentially hurt water quality by promoting the growth of toxic algae.”

“This is a step forward in the fight to stop Asian carp,” said US Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, who has introduced legislation demanding a solution within 18 months.

**A Fisker Karma luxury plug-in hybrid car is seen at the sixth annual Alternative Transportation Expo and Conference (AltCar) in San Mateo, California on 29 September, 2011.**

**Fisker: Karma battery did not cause Houston fire**

Fisker said it has not ruled out possible fraud or malicious intent.

Fisker said it has not ruled out possible fraud or malicious intent. Fire officials and investigators are examining an electrical panel in the garage, Fisker said, adding that it was “aware” of firesworks in the garage.

In recent months, Fisker has fielded tough questions about the reliability of the Karma after a spate of high-profile battery problems. No fires or injuries have been reported to the Karma battery, which is built by A123 Systems. In March, a Karma battery failed during a test conducted by Consumer Reports magazine. Fisker recalled 230 Karma cars in December to fix a battery defect that raised the risk of a fire.

**Boston hit by power outage, less serious than March**

**Boston, 9 May**—Boston’s landmark Prudential Centre and some 13,500 businesses and residences in the area temporarily lost electricity on Tuesday, less than two months after a more serious outage. Northeast Utilities said Tuesday’s outage started at the same site on Scotia Street where a transformer caught fire in March, leaving more than 20,000 customers without power, some for days.

Northeast Utilities is investigating Tuesday’s outage, which lasted less than an hour because electrical components were not damaged, said spokeswoman Caroline Pretzman.

She said crews were working around the clock since the outage in March to replace the transformer, make other repairs and provide additional backup to the downtown Boston power network.

**Ford to shorten “summer shutdown” in North America**

Ford said last month that it would lose US market share this year as consumer demand for cars and trucks is outstripping the automaker’s capacity to build them.

Most of Ford’s North American plants are at maximum capacity. Ford is adding production shifts this month at three assembly plants that are not at maximum capacity.

“Requiring more capacity from our plants is a good problem to have and having the flexibility to add a week of production in our plants goes a long way toward solving it,” Jim Tetreault, vice president of North America Manufacturing, said in a statement.

**An NStar worker attempts to restore power in Boston, Massachusetts on 8 May, 2012.**

Last week, Chrysler Group LLC, the No 3 US automaker, said four of its North American assembly plants would forego the normal two-week summer shutdown this year due to improved demand.

The No 3 US automaker, General Motors Co, declined to comment on its production schedule.

Six Ford assembly plants will be closed for one week this summer, including Chicago Assembly Plant, Dearborn Truck Plant and Michigan Assembly Plant. The other plants include Dearborn Engine and Chicago Stamping.

Ford shares were down 1.2 percent at $10.53 on Tuesday afternoon on the New York Stock Exchange.

Northeast Utilities opened an investigation into General Motors Co’s Chevrolet Volt after some battery packs caught fire during testing.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration closed the probe in January, saying that electric cars do not pose a greater risk of fire than gasoline-powered cars.
**Heart attack one of the leading causes of death globally**

Dr Tha Sein

A healthy heart needs oxygen to function for a human to survive. Heart attacks occur when the coronary artery that supplies the muscles of the heart with oxygenated blood is suddenly blocked off by a clot. This usually happens when the coronary artery develops cholesterol plaque which suddenly ruptures causing a blood clot to form around it. This blood clot can block the artery and shut the blood flow to the heart muscle. When the heart muscle is starved for oxygen and nutrients, it is called ischaemia. Within minutes of ischaemia, the muscles of the heart will die, thus resulting in a heart attack.

According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death globally and is projected to remain so. It has no geographic, gender or social-economic boundaries, although genetically, men have shown a higher incidence of heart attacks than women.

To understand whether you are at risk of a heart attack, you need to know what a heart attack is, how to identify the warning signs and how to prevent and minimize the problem from happening.

**Symptoms of a heart attack**

You may be having cardiovascular problems if you notice physical activity causes you to experience such symptoms as difficult or laboured breathing during normal physical activity or exertion, chest discomfort or pain from increased physical activity, and undue fatigue. Some people have a heart attack without having any symptoms. Such kind of the heart attack is called a silent myocardial infarction. A silent myocardial infarction can occur in any person, though it is common among diabetics.

**Warning signs of a heart attack**

Heart attacks are sudden and intense. However, the chest pain may not be severe enough initially for the affected person to realize an impending heart attack, thus resulting in a heart attack. Therefore results in delay in getting medical attention. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening.

- **Chest pain:** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the centre of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes, or pain that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable compression, heaviness of the chest, or gripping chest pain.

- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body:** Symptoms may include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach.

- **Shortness of breath:** It may happen with or without chest discomfort.

Other signs may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

**Risk factors & prevention**

**Smoking:** Smokers are two to four times more likely than non-smokers to develop coronary heart disease. Those who smoke a pack of cigarettes a day have more than twice the risk of a heart attack than people who do not smoke.

**Physical inactivity:** Regular, moderate-to-vigorous physical activity helps prevent heart and blood vessel diseases. Even regular, light-to-moderate exercise can help control blood cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, as well as help control blood pressure in some people.

**Obesity:** People who have excess body fat are more likely to develop heart disease even if they have no other risk factors. Excess weight increases the heart’s work. It also rises blood pressure and blood cholesterol and triglyceride levels. It can also make diabetes more likely to develop.

**Diabetes:** Diabetes significantly increases the risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Even when glucose levels are under control, diabetes increases the risk of heart disease. If you have diabetes, it is imperative that you consult with your family physician to manage and control any other risk factors that you may have.

**Stress:** Individual response to stress may be a contributing factor. It is important to learn how to relax and ensure proper stress management, as well as strive for work-life balance in today’s fast-paced world.

**Alcohol:** Excessive alcohol intake can raise blood pressure, contribute to high triglyceride, and produce irregular heartbeats. If you drink, limit your alcohol consumption to no more than two drinks per day for men and no more than one drink for women.

**Diet & Nutrition:** A healthy diet is one of the best weapons to fight against cardiovascular disease. The food you eat can affect other controllable risk factors like cholesterol, blood pressure, diabetes and overweight. Nutrient-rich foods like vegetables, fruits, whole-grain and high-fibre foods, fish, lean protein and fat-free or low-fat dairy products, which have vitamins, minerals, fibre and other nutrients are highly recommended, but they are lower in calories.

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**Plan to clear piles of garbage along railroads before rainy season**

Traveler from North Okkalapa Township, “Myanma Railways and Sanitation Department of Yangon City Development Committee are joining hands in cleaning the debris. Before the rainy season, over 100 piles of garbage will be cleared systematically,” officials of Sanitation Department of YCDC.

While cleaning garbage bins along the rail tracks, Myanma Railways will keep garbage bins in the local trains for prioritizing sanitation. As the train is cheaper than that of bus, the local people inside and outside the city rely on rail transportation.

At present, the number of train passengers is equal to that of bus—Thu Phyu Tun

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**Stakes driven for construction of library**

Putao, 9 May—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of Phokhan Library was held at Lower Shadagung Village of Mansay Village in Putao Township on 7 April.

Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department U Aung Kyaw Tun, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Phan Zee Dee, Village-tract Administrator U Man Khu Aung Ram, Village Administrator Sair Wam Yaw and members, library

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**Yatanarpon FC back from tune-up matches in Thailand**

Yangon, 9 May—Yatanarpon FC that focuses on securing champion in the MNL 2012 by taking good results in the first leg of the tournament arrived back home by air on 5 May after competing with football clubs in Thailand in tune-up matches.

The tune-up matches were aimed at making preparations for the second leg of the MNL and testing skills of its new foreign players. Moreover, the trip was aimed at enabling the players to have good experiences in playing with Thai football clubs.

In the last match with Karibi FC, Yatanarpon lost to his opponent 2-3. Although Yatanarpon led the match with goals secured by Ye Ko at the 52nd minute and 33rd minute by Van Paing, it gave three goals to the rival in the second half.

After the match, club manager U Aung Tun OO and officials of Karibi FC exchanged gifts.—Soe Nyunt

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**Tornado hits Laymyethna Township**

A tornado hit Kate Village of Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region on 2 May evening.

Roofs of Basic Education Primary School and rural clinic were blown in the tornado. Two houses were destroyed in fall of trees. Administrator of Laymyethna Basic Education Primary School and two houses collapsed in the strong winds.

—Myanma Alin
Sports and Myanmar Rowing

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint visited Singapore and Malaysia from 1 to 8 May at invitation of Singaporean National Development Minister Mr Khaw Boon Wan and Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Dato’ Sri Mustapah Mohamad.

The Myanmar delegation met the Singaporean minister at ShangriLa Hotel on 2 May and discussed matters related to property management in Singapore, governance of housing projects and procedures for planning urban development.

The delegation met Singaporean Legal Minister Ms Sim Ann and discussed matters related to property laws.

On 7 May, the delegation called on the Malaysian Public Housing Minister at his office and discussed matters related to cooperation between the two ministries and development of public housing.

Malaysian Labour Minister Dato’ Sri Shaziman Abu Mansor received the Myanmar delegation at his office in the afternoon and exchanged views on cooperation between the two ministries.

The Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister met Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Dato’ Sri Mustapah Mohamad in the evening and discussed matters of mutual interest.

MNA

Union EP-2 Minister receives Chairman of Busan Korea Biotechnology Co

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Seo received Chairman of Busan Korea Biotechnology Co Ltd Mr Chang Si Woo and party at his office this morning.

At the call, they discussed progress in feasible study of construction of 500-megawatt combined cycle power plant according to the MoU between the ministry and the company to distribute extended power supply to Yangon and Thilawa Industrial Zone, continued collection of detailed data for the project and completion of the project before 2015.

Also present at the call were Director-General of Busan Korea Biotechnology Co Ltd Mr Shin In-gyu and a delegation led by Chairman of the company.

MNA

World Red Cross Day observed in Taunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—The World Red Cross Day 2012 was observed at the office of Shan State Medical Association in Taunggyi this morning.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat delivered an address and State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun read the message for the World Red Cross Day.

The State Chief Minister and the State Minister presented prizes to outstanding members of Red Cross Society.

MNA

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor meets officials from UOB Bank, Korea Exchange

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Managing Director and Head of United Overseas Bank Mr Bill Chua called on Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nney at the latter’s office this afternoon. They discussed matters related to more cooperation between UOB Bank and Myanmar banks.

Similarly, Governor U Than Nney received Director of Korea Exchange (KRX) Mr Hong Hee Shin and party at his office in the afternoon. At the call, they had a discussion on cooperation in promoting development of capital market in Myanmar. Also present were the vice-governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and heads of department.

MNA

National Technical Officer of International Technical Officer course opens

YANGON, 9 May—The National Technical Officer of International Technical Officer course, jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Rowing Federation and conducted by FISA, was opened at the office of Myanmar Rowing Federation at Inya Lake, here, at 9 am today.

According 11 trainers from Ministry of Sports, four from Yangon Command rowing team, nine from Defence Services (Navy) rowing team, nine from Yangon University team, four from Ayeyawady Region and 13 from Myanmar Rowing Federation, totaling 60 are attending the course that lasts up to 13 May.

MNA

20th ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock Meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—As the inter ASEAN Countries holds ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock Meeting annually in alphabetical order, the 20th ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock Meeting was held at Kaungkin Yinaw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw this morning, attended by Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye and Mr Benigno Solomon FR Novilla of ASEAN Secretariat Office and they then made speeches.

At the meeting, they held discussion on development of local socio-economic based on breeding, safe meat product trade, coordination of regulation and producing vaccines with the standard of ASEAN.

The meeting continues till 11 May.—MNA
Entire national people…

(From page 16)
The summit will help entrepreneurs to be able to seek market, estimate the number of consumers, manufacture commodities and provide services. It can also be useful in other fields such as environmental conservation and rescue works.

Related ministries in Myanmar, UN agencies, social organizations and the people will work together to collect the national census. In carrying out the task, it is necessary to meet international norms and standards and set quality. UEFAP will also closely cooperate in the successful implementation of the task.

On 30 April 2012, MoU on assistance for collecting population and household census for 3014 was signed. Chairman of Central Census Commission Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Under Secretary General and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General Mr Vwijan Nambo signed the MoU and exchanged the notes. And the signing ceremony is a milestone of the country in taking its national census in 2014 and it also means that Myanmar has pledged to implement the task in accord with international standards in collaboration with international organizations.

Myanmar has been unable to collect national census for about 30 years due to various reasons. It will seek advice and suggestions from experts at home and abroad so that the collection of national census can meet international standards. This is why as prescribed in the MoU, census advisory committees and technical advisory committees will be promptly formed. Steps are also being taken to deal with the formation of a law that is in conformity with the present time which is included in the MoU on rendering assistance. As collecting census covers everyone, each and every one of different strata is to give a helpful hand to it after realizing the nature of work. Therefore, the Information Sector is to widely impart the knowledge on taking census to the people making better use of media.

In conclusion, the Vice-President stressed the need for the entire national people to make energetic efforts based on the skills of departmental personnel under the supervision of the committees at different levels as the 2014 nation-wide census which is imperative for the nation to have a population list and relevant data is a national concern.

Next, Chairman of Central Census Commission Union Minister U Khin Yi reported on facts about the 2014 nation-wide census, work progress on four tasks of taking census such as preparation, data collection, data compilation and surveying, and report issuing and future tasks.

This was followed by a general round of discussions. Afterwards, Patron of Central Census Commission and Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham gave concluding remarks.

After the meeting, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham together with members of Central Census Commission looked into documentaries on the 1983 census taking and the and documentaries to be used in taking the 2014 census displayed at the meeting hall.

Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry donates cash for regional development in Haka Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 May—MNA

Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aung Min, Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai and wellwishers formally opened Pyidaungsu Yeikha.—MNA

The dinner and bonfire was held at the hall of Mon State Red Cross Society Dr Aye Myint delivered an opening address.

The celebration was held at model, mechanized 262-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation in Survee township in Mon State for providing electricity to the village and K 2.5 million to Lamhot village for construction of a primary school.

He also met local people in Thimam village and donated K 5 million for construction of two Boarding Schools and K 4 million for electric supply in Malhaung village and K 5 million to Ywaban village for hydropower generation.

Together with Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Electric Power No (1) U Zaw Min, Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, General U Tun Tun Oo, he attended opening of Pyidaungsu Yeikha.

Union Minister U Aung Min, U Zaw Min, Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai and wellwishers formally open Pyidaungsu Yeikha.—MNA

Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry donates cash for regional development in Haka Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 May—Chin National Front (CNF) that gave an offer to the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for its peace invitation and the Union level peace making group of the Union government held a peace talk at the meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Yeikha in Hapa on 7 May.

It was attended by Union Ministers U Aung Min, U Win Tun and U Zaw Min, Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Col Kyaw Soe Win of the Comander-in-Chief (Army)’s Office, Chin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Min Oo, Col Kyaw Thant Naing of North-West Command and Officials of the Union level peace making group, leader Dr Shwe Kha and party of Chin National Front (CNF) peace making group and peace negotiators of both sides.

At the meeting, they discussed 15 points submission of CNF to be discussed at the Union level peace talk. After that, they signed the agreements and exchanged notes.

A dinner and bonfire was held at the office of Chin State government. Then, they exchanged gifts. On behalf of the President, Union Minister Aung Min presented 20 sets of Sky Net receivers as peace gifts to CNF.—MNA

Mon State observes World Red Cross Day

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 May—The World Red Cross Day 2012 was held at the hall of Mon State Red Cross Supervisory Committee in Mawlamyine yesterday.

State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint delivered an opening address. Chairman of Mon State Red Cross Society Dr Aye Myint read the message.

The State Chief Minister presented prizes to Ye Township that secured the shield in parade championship and overall championship award to Mawlamyine Township Red Cross Brigade.

In the afternoon, the Chief Minister delivered an address at the coordination meeting on effective endeavours of reforms for development of the State and the nation.—MNA

Slight earthquake jolts

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 May—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar, about 12 miles west of Minbu, about 152 miles south west of Mandalay, seismological observatory was recorded at 5 hrs 43 min 50 sec MST today.—MNA
Palethwe hybrid paddy harvested on model plot in Hlegu Township

YANGON, 9 May—The harvesting of Palethwe hybrid high-yield paddy was held in conjunction with the talks about cultivation technology at 10-acre farmland of farmer U Soe Min in Sitpin Village of Hlegu Township in Yangon Region on 5 May morning.

Head of Yangon Region Agriculture Department U Tin Aung Win explained use of quality paddy strains for doubling incomes of farmers, cultivation of Palethwe paddy strain through 14-point good agricultural pattern so as to produce over 200 baskets of paddy per acre. He said that paddy and rice companies purchase 100 baskets of paddy per K 50,000 more than the current prices and some companies grant purchase of paddy at 100 baskets per K 400,000. He continued that the farmers can enjoy guarantees of per-acre yield and market guarantee. He further explained that the harvesting of mode plot was demonstrated for enabling the farmers to have knowledge about technology of cultivation.

After harvesting the model plot, paddy was produced 185 baskets per acre in wet status. The harvesting of paddy was supervised by Director-General U Kyaw Win of Agriculture Department.

The ceremony was also attended by staff members of Agriculture Departments from Yangon North District and Hlegu Township, village administrators of seven village-tracts and farmers.—Agriculture

Anti-snake venom donated to local farmers

Chairman of White Heart Group U Khin Maung Zin and executives donated four boxes of anti-snake venom for farmers. Myoma Ward 8 Administrator U Tin Aye and Tonhlechaung Village Organizer of the group U Maw Si accepted the donations.

Wellwishers and White Heart Group donated various kinds of medicines to 171 patients of villages. Next, Dr Aung Zaw Myo and medical team gave health care services to the local farmers.

Bo tree watered in Thakayta Township

THAKAYTA, 9 May—The 48th water pouring ceremony at Bo tree was held in conjunction with the Fullmoon Day of Kason. Wellwishers Ko Moe and kept Saffah. Especially, ancient Kyai Khmawwun Maye Pagoda was packed with foreign tourists and Buddhist devotees.—Myanma Alin

Thuta Padetha Library put into service in Kungyangon Township

YANGON, 9 May—A ceremony to put Thuta Padetha Library into service was held in Tawkhayanlay Village of Kungyangon Township in Yangon South District on 29 April.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Kyaw Zeya Lin, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Nant Swe Nwe Oo, Chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Zargyi Lin and Village Administrator U Task Tum formally opened the library.

At first, the administrator of Kungyangon Township made a speech. After that, the head of Township Information and Public Relations Department gave a talk on the durability of the library and conservation measures of environment.

Later, members of the library committee accepted 200 books and furniture worth K 250,000 donated by Myanmar Libraries Foundation. 100 books by the township administrator, one radio by the chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization and K 30,000 by U Aung Nyein and U Kyi Than.

Thuta Padetha Library put into service in Kungyangon Township

YANGON, 9 May—A ceremony to put Thuta Padetha Library into service was held in Tawkhayanlay Village of Kungyangon Township on 5 May morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Htun Min and members, Chairman of Pagoda Board of Trustees U Aung Myint, members and local people went round the pagoda clockwise and then poured water at the Bo tree.

Myanma Alin

Fire breaks out in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 9 May—A fire broke out in Ward 19 of Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region at 7.25 am on 5 May.

It started from a house in Alaunggha Road in Ward 19. The fire destroyed three houses and one long low building. One nine-year old child died in the fire.

Members of fire brigade put out the fire with the use of 13 fire engines, two water tankers and two management vehicles and controlled it at 7.55 am.

At present, fire victims are being accommodated at Basic Education Primary School No. 32.

Myanma Alin

Myanmar Libraries Foundation invites cash, book donations

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

Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Theinbyu Street in Botataung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-200316 and 01-398756.

Local people participate in putting out fire in Hlinethaya.

Pilgrims and devotees eager to pour water at Bo tree of Kyai Khmawwun Maye Pagoda.
United States.— Republic of Korea and the integrated photovoltaic listed on the New York Stock Kong and Southeast Asia. including building a Hong adopted a set of measures, April 2011. The company has headquarters in Singapore in opened a regional Asian market and at further established a regional Energy Holding Co Ltd said company, Yingli Green division of the integration Osvaldo Rosales, director of increased significantly, said partner for Latin America has China’s importance as a trade government think tank said. such as investment and trade partner and third- South America’s growth second-largest trade partner. China will soon become and required a huge capital and outlay and high technology. resources technology development deputy chief said, adding that deep-sea oil exploration was not only the only way they could be built is if the construction natural and required a huge capital outlay and high technology. With world oil prices hovering above 100 US dollar a barrel since the beginning of 2012, prospects for oil in deep sea locations, Ridwan Djamaluddin of the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying. “They remain largely untapped,” the BPPT natural resources technology development deputy chief said, adding that deep-sea oil exploration required a huge capital outlay and high technology. With world oil prices hovering above 100 US dollar a barrel since the beginning of 2012, prospects for oil in deep sea locations in Indonesia may become commercially viable. Most of Indonesia’s oil production currently comes from onshore and shallow waters. But there haven’t been major significant findings in the last decades, resulting in Indonesia’s overall hydrocarbon reserves depleting fast. "The only way they could be built is if the construction risk was transferred to the taxpayer," Atherton said, equating to a multi-billion pound government insurance policy. EDF’s Flamanville nuclear reactor, which is under construction in France, is running four years late and at least double its original budget. Britain’s biggest nuclear power plant operator, EDF, which plans to build two atomic plants in the country, declined requests for comment. Peter Atherton told Reuters. Based on the new figures, nuclear would be the most expensive form of electricity generation, exceeding even offshore wind, he said. China’s economic ties with Latin America and the Caribbean need further development as the global economy weakens, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said in a “yellow book” on Tuesday. Bilateral relations have moved beyond initial contacts based on trade to more complex interactions such as investment and financial cooperation, the government think tank said. In just eight years, China’s importance as a trade partner for Latin America has significantly increased, said Osvaldo Rosales, director of the international trade and integration division of the United Nations’ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. “China is displacing the European Union as the second-largest trade partner of countries (in the region) and it’s more important for South America’s growth than the United States,” he said. In 2011, China’s trade with Latin American and Caribbean countries exceeded $245 billion. China has become the region’s second-largest trade partner and third-largest investor, said Li Baorong, deputy director-general of the Latin American and Caribbean Department at the Foreign Ministry. Two arrested in case of kidnapped Tennesse mother, daughters TULIPPORT, 9 May—The wife of a man suspected of kidnapping a Tenessee mother and her three daughters has admitted she drove them to a house in Mississippi where the bodies of the mother and oldest daughter were later found, authorities said on Tuesday. Teresa Mayes, wife of Adam Mayes, was arrested Sunday along with her mother, Mary Mayes. Both are in Hardeman County Jail in Tennessee. Meanwhile, police into two states and the FBI continues, who is suspected of taking the two surviving daughters with him on the run. Jo Ann Bain, 31, and her oldest daughter, Adrienne, 14, were dead, and the two younger Bain girls, Alexandria, 12, and Kyliyah, 8, were believed held by Mayes. Investigators have described him as a family friend or an uncle figure to the girls.

In an interview with Reuters, Teresa Mayes’ sister Bobbi Booth said Teresa told her on Saturday that Adam Mayes had killed Jo Ann and Adrienne Bain. Booth said she immediately contacted the Hardeman County sheriff’s department. Investigators told her they knew everything and Teresa Mayes was not a suspect. Booth said she believes her sister, who is mentally challenged, is not at fault. "My sister does not have sense enough to do what they’re accusing her of," Booth said, describing Teresa as a caring woman who loves children but is “mentally slow.” Authorities believe Adam Mayes is still in north Mississippi and they are focusing their search there, said FBI spokesman Joel Siskovic.—Reuters Two arrested in case of kidnapped Tennessee mother, daughters

Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria emerging markets at Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA. But trade between China and the region is concentrated on few countries and few products. “They remain largely untapped,” the BPPT natural resources technology development deputy chief said, adding that deep-sea oil exploration required a huge capital outlay and high technology. With world oil prices hovering above 100 US dollar a barrel since the beginning of 2012, prospects for oil in deep sea locations in Indonesia may become commercially viable. Most of Indonesia’s oil production currently comes from onshore and shallow waters. But there haven’t been major significant findings in the last decades, resulting in Indonesia’s overall hydrocarbon reserves depleting fast. "The only way they could be built is if the construction risk was transferred to the taxpayer," Atherton said, equating to a multi-billion pound government insurance policy. EDF’s Flamanville nuclear reactor, which is under construction in France, is running four years late and at least double its original budget. Britain’s biggest nuclear power plant operator, EDF, which plans to build two atomic plants in the country, declined requests for comment. Peter Atherton told Reuters. Based on the new figures, nuclear would be the most expensive form of electricity generation, exceeding even offshore wind, he said. China’s economic ties with Latin America and the Caribbean need further development as the global economy weakens, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said in a “yellow book” on Tuesday. Bilateral relations have moved beyond initial contacts based on trade to more complex interactions such as investment and financial cooperation, the government think tank said. In just eight years, China’s importance as a trade partner for Latin America has significantly increased, said Osvaldo Rosales, director of the international trade and integration division of the United Nations’ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. “China is displacing the European Union as the second-largest trade partner of countries (in the region) and it’s more important for South America’s growth than the United States,” he said. In 2011, China’s trade with Latin American and Caribbean countries exceeded $245 billion. China has become the region’s second-largest trade partner and third-largest investor, said Li Baorong, deputy director-general of the Latin American and Caribbean Department at the Foreign Ministry. Two arrested in case of kidnapped Tennesse mother, daughters
Brazilian retailer uses Facebook-connected hangers so you can like their clothes, literally

Spanish, 9 May — “Liking” things on Facebook is increasingly becoming a pop culture measuring stick to see just how buzzy a topic, idea, or product has become. Brazilian clothing retailer C&A has taken this concept of seemingly spur-of-the-moment popularity and applied it to their various outfits in a very literal sense: if, while browsing the shop’s racks, you find something you like, you can simply touch the Facebook-connected hanger and declare your feelings on the social network.

On C&A’s Facebook page, each piece of clothing has its own post, and the likes just keep piling up. The idea is that when a social network user “likes” a piece of clothing on the company’s page, they’re able to see the hottest items of the moment in an instant. Of course, because each press of a hanger’s button is essentially anonymous, it’s difficult to tell which items are genuinely popular, and which have become victim to some push-happy customers with quick fingers.

It’s certainly an interesting idea, and may help some undecided shoppers pick between a few would-be purchases based on each item’s popularity. The store hasn’t detailed how it plans to deal with items as they age — as in, month-old outfits with thousands of likes versus brand new garments without established popularity — but we have a feeling this is more about making a big splash on the social network than it is about a reliable outfit rating system.

Treasury further lowers government stake in AIG

WASHINGTON, 9 May — The Treasury on Monday said it is trimming its ownership stake in American International Group Inc to 61 percent from 70 percent by selling more shares of the insurer’s common stock.

The US government said it expects to receive another $750 million by offering additional shares, known as exercising an over-allotment option. On Sunday Treasury had said it expected to reduce its stake in AIG to 63 percent. But demand was high for the insurer’s shares and Treasury said it now plans to sell 188.5 million shares for approximately $5.8 billion.

The government acquired its AIG shares as part of a $182 billion bailout of the insurer in 2008, the largest-ever rescue of a single corporation, and has reduced the investment over time. — Reuters

Fat Forecast: 42% of Americans Obese by 2030

New York, 9 May — About 32 million more Americans will become obese by 2030, upping obesity rates to 42 percent of the US population, according to a new report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report also predicts that the proportion of Americans who are severely obese, meaning more than 100 pounds overweight, will reach 11 percent, about double the current rate.

The report’s authors give a sobering price tag for these predictions: such an increase would create $550 billion of obesity-related health care costs. Eric Finkelstein, one of the authors of the report, said the prospect of such increasing rates, particularly those of severely obese Americans, is alarming since efforts aimed at helping people lose weight...
Lightning strikes sleeping man in Texas

A Texas man said he plans to install rods on his home after he was struck by lightning while sleeping in his favourite chair.

Cheval Silva of Edwards County said he fell asleep while watching TV with his 5-year-old granddaughter Monday evening and he woke up thinking his house had been struck by a hunter, KSAT-TV, San Antonio, reported. "Searing pain in my right foot, and when I woke up, I could see the room kind of exploded," he said.

Silva said he scooped up his granddaughter to get her out of harm’s way and she quickly pointed out he was on fire. Silva said emergency responders had a hard time finding his remote ranch, so he and his granddaughter drove out to the highway extension to wait for an ambulance.

The grandfather said he was told of lightning that had entered his body through his shoulder and exited through his foot. "I’m awful glad my granddaughter is safe and I’m glad I still have my legs, but I’m sure going to miss that chair," said Silva, who suffered some nerve damage.

He said he plans to install lightning rods on his home.

Lost parakeet gives address to police

Authorities in Japan said a parakeet captured at a hotel was returned to its owners after it was able to give its address Tuesday night, and was returned to its owner, a 64-year-old woman, after on 29 April at a hotel when it perched on a guest’s shoulder to police.

"We never thought that we could find the owner in this manner," a police officer said.

Bagel shop fined for dropped seeds

The owner of a New York bagel shop said he was shocked when a health inspector fined him $1,650 for dropping sesame and poppy seeds on the floor. Alex Gormakh, 59, owner of B&B Empire Bagel Cafe in Brooklyn, said he appealed the fines, stemming from an 23 Oct inspection and lost at two hearings, the New York Post reported.

Gormakh said he does not understand how the city Health Department expects him to make bagels without some of the seeds dropping to the floor. "It’s impossible to clean up after each and every bagel," he said. "It's impossible. It is a process."

Workers at other bagel businesses in the city agreed with Gormakh. "No matter how much you sweep during the daytime there’s always going to be seeds on the floor," said AJ Taz of Brooklyn Bagel. Gormakh, who opened the store last June after moving from Russia in 1995, said he and his four, 34, have spent nearly $900,000 on larger stainless steel preparation tables to cut back on seed dropping and a water-filter vacuum to collect the seeds that do fall on the floor. "If you want to work you have to pay," he said. "In Russia, they call it corruption. Here they call it something else. Either way, you have to pay."

"7th Heaven" actor Collins and wife divorcing

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — US actor Stephen Collins announced on Monday he and his actress wife Faye Grant are divorcing after 27 years of marriage. The former "7th Heaven" star and Grant married in 1985 and have one daughter.

But Collins said in a statement issued to E! News he and his longtime spouse are "moving forward separately in our lives."

"She has been my dearest friend and a loving mother," said Collins. "I know, US actor Stephen Collins reported.

Justin Bieber escorts Mayweather to boxing ring

LAS VEGAS, 9 May — Singer Justin Bieber became boxer Floyd Mayweather’s lucky charm as he escorted the boxer to the ring before his much-anticipated match with Miquel Cotto. The singer showed his support for Mayweather by carrying two of the sports star’s title belts. Both he and rapper 50 Cent accompanied the boxing champ into Las Vegas’ MGM Grand garden arena Saturday, reports dailystar.co.uk.

Bieber remained ringside throughout the match to cheer on Mayweather, who preserved his unbeaten record after defeating Cotto.

After the fight, the teen sensation jumped into the ring with 50 Cent and Lil Wayne to congratulate Mayweather on his victory and pose for pictures.—Internet

Miley Cyrus’ Disney return

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Actress Miley Cyrus returned to her Disney roots and enjoyed a trip to Disneyland in California. The singer-actress was signed to the company as a child and found fame with her lead role in the Disney Channel’s show “Hannah Montana,” reports dailystar.co.uk. She was spotted enjoying white-knuckle rides with pals at the theme park Saturday.—Internet

Matthew Fox arrested for alleged DUI

Bravo, 9 May — Former television star Matthew Fox has been arrested for allegedly driving under the influence in Oregon where he lives, TMZ reported on Monday.

The “Party of Five” and “Lost” actor was arrested at 2:23 am PDT Friday on suspicion of DUI, then taken into police custody and released later in the day.

Law-enforcement sources told TMZ Fox, 45, and an unidentified passenger were on their way to a fast-food restaurant when the actor was pulled over by police. No other details regarding the arrest were immediately available. Fox was accused last year of drunkenly assaulting the female driver of a charter bus who wouldn’t let him on the vehicle. While no criminal charges were brought, a civil lawsuit against him is pending.—Internet

Actor Matthew Fox attends “The Olivier Awards” at Theatre Royal in London on 13 March, 2011.—INTERNET

The Titian Aurum each weigh about 150 pounds and are about 6 years old.

The plants give off the smell of rotting meat when the flowers bloom to attract the same insects that feed on dead animals, officials said.

The 23-year-old actor spent time alone on the set of his latest film “Kill Your Darlings” here, writing sonnets to girlfriend Rosie Coker. The 23-year-old actor turned to poetry and has written sonnets for girlfriend Rosie Coker. He plays poet Allen Ginsberg in the film. —Internet

Actor Daniel Radcliffe turns into poet

NEW YORK, 9 May — Actor Daniel Radcliffe turned to poetry and has written sonnets for girlfriend Rosie Coker. —Internet

Emma Watson ‘passionate’ about make-up

WASHINGTON, 9 May — Emma Watson has revealed that she loves doing people’s make-up. The ‘Harry Potter’ actress loves applying cosmetics to her friends and family and is ever ready to pass her beauty tips on to them.

“I love doing make-up, I didn’t my mum’s make-up for all her job interviews and whenever I go out, I do their make-up too,” Contactmusic quoted her as telling Britain’s Glamour magazine.

‘My speciality’ like quite a natural look, but I do everything really. ‘People underestimate the power of an eyebrow. I recently got my friend into pencilling hers in, which she thought was such a strange concept at first,’ she said.

However, the 22-year-old is aware that much beauty advice contradicts other snippets of wisdom so advises people not to listen to everything they are told. "Don’t listen to everyone. It’s kind of overwhelming, especially with your diet and skincare. You get so many different pieces of advice, you don’t know what to listen to," she said.

“I think people need to judge what works for them and trust their intuition,” she added.

The former “7th Heaven” woman and “State of Grace,” told E! News her husband’s divorce filings is a “surprise.” “I am devastated,” she said. “I wish him the very best in whatever path he chooses to take. Twenty-seven years of marriage in Hollywood is the equivalent of 189 dog years. I was exhausted.”

“‘Lost’ parakeet gives address to police

Authority in Japan said a parakeet captured at a hotel was returned to its owners after it was able to give its address to police.

Sagamihara police said the male budgerigar was captured on 29 April at a hotel when it perched on a guest’s shoulder to police.

“Never thought that we could find the owner in this manner,” a police officer said.

Bagel shop fined for dropped seeds

The owner of a New York bagel shop said he was shocked when a health inspector fined him $1,650 for dropping sesame and poppy seeds on the floor. Alex Gormakh, 59, owner of B&B Empire Bagel Cafe in Brooklyn, said he appealed the fines, stemming from an 23 Oct inspection and lost at two hearings, the New York Post reported.

Gormakh said he does not understand how the city Health Department expects him to make bagels without some of the seeds dropping to the floor. “It’s impossible to clean up after each and every bagel,” he said. “It’s impossible. It is a process.”

Workers at other bagel businesses in the city agreed with Gormakh. “No matter how much you sweep during the daytime there’s always going to be seeds on the floor,” said AJ Taz of Brooklyn Bagel. Gormakh, who opened the store last June after moving from Russia in 1995, said he and his four, 34, have spent nearly $900,000 on larger stainless steel preparation tables to cut back on seed dropping and a water-filter vacuum to collect the seeds that do fall on the floor. “If you want to work you have to pay,” he said. “In Russia, they call it corruption. Here they call it something else. Either way, you have to pay.”

Justin Bieber escorts Mayweather to boxing ring

LAS VEGAS, 9 May — Singer Justin Bieber became boxer Floyd Mayweather’s lucky charm as he escorted the boxer to the ring before his much-anticipated match with Miquel Cotto. The singer showed his support for Mayweather by carrying two of the sports star’s title belts. Both he and rapper 50 Cent accompanied the boxing champ into Las Vegas’ MGM Grand garden arena Saturday, reports dailystar.co.uk.

Bieber remained ringside throughout the match to cheer on Mayweather, who preserved his unbeaten record after defeating Cotto.

After the fight, the teen sensation jumped into the ring with 50 Cent and Lil Wayne to congratulate Mayweather on his victory and pose for pictures.—Internet

Miley Cyrus’ Disney return

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Actress Miley Cyrus returned to her Disney roots and enjoyed a trip to Disneyland in California. The singer-actress was signed to the company as a child and found fame with her lead role in the Disney Channel’s show “Hannah Montana,” reports dailystar.co.uk. She was spotted enjoying white-knuckle rides with pals at the theme park Saturday.—Internet

Matthew Fox arrested for alleged DUI

Bravo, 9 May — Former television star Matthew Fox has been arrested for allegedly driving under the influence in Oregon where he lives, TMZ reported on Monday.

The “Party of Five” and “Lost” actor was arrested at 2:23 am PDT Friday on suspicion of DUI, then taken into police custody and released later in the day.

Law-enforcement sources told TMZ Fox, 45, and an unidentified passenger were on their way to a fast-food restaurant when the actor was pulled over by police. No other details regarding the arrest were immediately available. Fox was accused last year of drunkenly assaulting the female driver of a charter bus who wouldn’t let him on the vehicle. While no criminal charges were brought, a civil lawsuit against him is pending.—Internet

Actor Matthew Fox attends “The Olivier Awards” at Theatre Royal in London on 13 March, 2011.—INTERNET

Rare flowers to bloom in Ontario

Officials at the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse in Ontario said two of the six rare Titan Arum flowers received are about to bloom.

Joan Cornelius, manager of the Floral Showhouse, said one of the flowers, which are known as the world’s tallest flowers, is expected to bloom any day and the other is expected to bloom in about 10 days, WIVB-TV, Buffalo, NY, reported.

The ready-to-bloom flowers each weigh about 150 pounds and are about 6 years old. They were given to the facility by a donor in New Hampshire.

“The corm can actually get up to 250 pounds, so if we grow them well and they are happy after the bloom, the bloom only lasts for three to four days, then it will collapse. Then it will send out a leaf and that can last up to nine months to a year. That leaf is going to make these corms get bigger,” Cornelius said.

The plants give off the smell of rotting meat when the flowers bloom to attract the same insects that feed on dead animals, officials said.

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Pato sets sights on Olympic comeback
RAY DE JASON
9 May—Brazilian forward Pato says he is aiming to make a comeback at the Olympic Games in London in August. The 22-year-old has not played since aggravating a hamstring injury in a brief cameo during AC Milan’s Champions League quarter-final exit at the hands of Barcelona last month.

He has been injury-plagued for the best part of the last three seasons, in particular the current campaign. But he believes he will be fit for the Olympic showcase. “I’m training intensely and thinking about the Olympics,” he said in an interview with Rede Globo which was transmitted on Milan’s official website.

“I live for football, it’s my work, my life. When I can run and kick a ball, I’m happy and smiling and what’s that I want to do. “I want to go back to playing well, scoring many goals and helping Milan again in the Sellesca.” Pato has made only 11 league appearances this season, scoring one goal which was transmitted on the web.

Del Bosque ‘worried’ about Villa’s Euro chances
TALENT ZAMAN
9 May—Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque has admitted he is worried about David Villa’s chances of competing at Euro 2012, only days after pledging to wait until the last moment before ruling out his injured striker. —INTERNET

The 22-year-old has not played since aggravating a comeback at the Olympic Games in London in August, since aggravating a knee injury. Puyol, meanwhile, faces six weeks on the sidelines due to the ongoing problems with the knee injury. Del Bosque said in comments broadcast on Cadena Ser Radio Tuesday “We are tonight heeded. We are worried because, of course, it is difficult for us to take someone who has not played one game.”

Del Bosque had said Friday he would keep a spot open for Villa until the last moment: “We’re obliged to wait until the last moment in David’s case because he has been our most reputable goal scorer.”

Villa’s chances of competing at Euro 2012, only days after pledging to wait until the last moment before ruling out his injured striker. —INTERNET

Taylor tells doubters to give Hodgson a fair go
LONDON, 9 May—Former England manager Graham Taylor has urged all those who have been questioning Roy Hodgson’s suitability for the post to lay off the new man in charge.

Hodgson was only confirmed in the post last week, but the way some sections of the British media have reacted to his appointment has stirred some uncomfortable memories for Taylor.

The Sun tabloid, Britain’s biggest-selling newspaper, responded to Hodgson’s elevation to the England job by mocking the West Bromwich Albion manager’s manner of speech with a headline of ‘Bwing on the Euros!’ (We’ll use you in Ukraine against France!). Taylor was not alone in being dismayed but he had more reason than most to sympathise with Hodgson.

In 1992, Taylor was depicted as a turnip in the Sun after England’s defeat by Sweden ended their involvement in that year’s European Championships. Tottenham Hotspur manager Harry Redknapp had long been championed throughout the British media as the man to succeed Fabio Capello.

The Italian resigned from the England post in protest at the Football Association’s decision to strip John Terry of the captaincy of the national side.

But the FA opted to ignore the claims of the ‘fans favourite’ and instead chose Hodgson.

He is vastly more experienced than the Spurs boss in international football, having managed Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Finland. His g lobotrusting career has also included spells in charge of several European clubs including Italian giants Inter Milan.

Taylor said on Tuesday he hoped the 64-year-old Hodgson would be spared criticism for not being Redknapp.

“There is a small section of people who have already made their minds up about Roy,” he said. “Harry was their lad — and he hasn’t got the job — Internet.

Simeone wary of fearless Athletic in Euro final
MADRID, 9 May—Diego Simeone has warned his Atletico Madrid players to be wary of an intense and fearless Athletic Bilbao when they face the Spanish sides line up in Barcelona aiming for Europe League final glory on Wednesday.

In an impressive five-month spell in charge, Simeone has taken Atletico to their second Europe League final in three years, the Spaniards having claimed their maiden European trophy with a 2-1 victory over Fulham in 2010. But the man who took over in December following the sacking of Gregorio Manzano expects his credentials will be tested to the full by an Athletic side who, although yet to win big on this European stage, will prove tough opponents.

“They’re a team with a lot of intensity; a direct style of football, quick and brave a team that isn’t afraid to play their way, even in away matches,” Simeone told the UEFA website. “They’ve played like that throughout the whole season. We are the team and our knowledge, they know they will be the same in any game, whether it’s a friendly or a final.”

As well as pitting two Spanish sides against each other, the final will also see Simeone pit his tactical nous against former coach Marcelo Bielsa. Bielsa was Argentina’s coach when Bendtner scored the record-breaking 106 caps with the national team at the 2002 World Cup.

And while Simeone has expressed his “great admiration” for his fellow countryman, he believes the coach’s input will be limited, saying: “The players play it; we just stand outside.”

“When it comes to matches like this, those who have played before know what to expect, but that guarantees you nothing,” he added. While Atletico have the advantage of playing in front of their home crowd and currently sit in fourth, five places above Athletic, in La Liga, Simeone’s fierce Basques have been one of the most entertaining teams of this season’s tournament.

Liverpool average FA Cup loss to Chelsea
LIVERPOOL, 9 May—Roberto di Matteo has admitted he is still unsure whether defender Gary Cahill and David Luiz will be available for Chelsea’s Champions League final with Bayern Munich on 1 May.

Luiz has not been featured since a second half substitution due to a knee injury. Both players were missing as an understrength Chelsea side lost 2-1 to Liverpool in the Premier League on Tuesday in a re-run of last Saturday’s FA Cup final at Wembley, which Chelsea won 2-1.

Di Matteo, speaking after the comprehensive defeat at Anfield, said he was unsure whether the duo would be available to feature at Bayern’s Allianz Arena later this month.

“Let’s wait and see, we’ll see,” said di Matteo, when asked about the progress of Cahill and Luiz. “I would like everyone to be available. We’re tracking their progress and working towards their fitness,” the former Chelsea and Italy midfielder added.

With this defeat meaning Chelsea are now unable to finish higher than sixth in the Premier League this season, Di Matteo said Tuesday was a “one-off, special” occasion.

“Bayern to guarantee a place in next term’s Champions League,” he said. Di Matteo defended his decision to make eight changes to the team that took a 2-0 lead at Wembley, saying: “You know how demanding it has been for us.

“I thought by putting a team that was energetic and fresh mentally and physically it would give us a better chance. We have played every day. Only by utilising the strength we have in the squad we have been able to reach two finals,” he added.

But goals from Jermaine Beckford, Danny Agger, Jonjo Shelvey and an own goal by Michael Essien earned Liverpool, their biggest league success since 1986, a dramatic 3-2 victory in Tuesday’s FA Cup final at Wembley.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Djokovic tested, testify in tight Madrid opener
MADRID, 9 May—Top seed Novak Djokovic failed to get to grips with the controversial blue clay of the Madrid Masters but still survived a struggle to reach the third round 2-6, 2-6, 6-3 over Daniel Gimeno-Traver. However, number one Djokovic, originally cautious in his comments about the experimental surface, which has drawn fire but little praise so far from players, was unable to stay in check after playing his match on Tuesday.

“It’s impossible to move. I hit maybe five balls, the rest went just trying to put the ball into the court. I was relying on serve and getting free points from his unforced errors.

“That was not tennis, either I need football shoes or some advice on how to play on this court. I cannot find the words to describe this court. It’s really tough to play like this on a centre court. We cannot change anything this year, but my first impressions are not good. I don’t want to be the one complaining, but I say honestly what I feel.

“We need serious discussion about the future of this blue clay.” The Serb is playing for the first time since losing the Monte Carlo final to Rafael Nadal, the second seed who has so far led the criticism against the blue look.—INTERNET.

Serafin’s Novak Djokovic - célébrates winning a point against Spanish Daniel Jimeno-Traver during their match at the Madrid Masters on 8 May, at the Magic Box (Caja Magica) stadium. Djokovic won 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. INTERNET
Greece prepares to light Olympic flame

An actress in the role of an ancient Greek high priestess holds a pot with the flame of the Beijing 2008 Olympics. The Olympic flame for this summer’s London Games will be lit Thursday in Ancient Olympia, the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) announced on Tuesday.

The Flame will be lit “with every solemnity, according to the traditional way,” the HOC said in a statement.

Ceremonies at the site where the first Olympics were held some 2,800 years ago will be attended by International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge, London 2012 Olympics Organising Committee President Lord Coe and other IOC members, British and Greek officials.

“The High Priestess Io Ino Menegaki will light the Olympic flame directly from the sunrays and then, after the ritual prepared by choreographer Artemis Ignatiou, the sacred light will be handed over to the first torchbearer, Greek world champion swimmer Spyros Gianniotis,” the HOC said.

Gianniotis will then pass the torch to Alexander Loukos, a 19-year-old British boxer whose father moved to the United Kingdom from Greece and was picked after helping London win the bid to stage the Games.

An eight-day torch relay covering 2,900km around Greece will follow, taking in five archaeological sites and ending on May 21 with the arrival of the flame at the old Athens Olympic Stadium where the first modern Games were held in 1896.

FIRE BRIGADE DAY OBSERVED: The 66th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was observed at the fire station in Hlaing Shun State (North) on 5 May morning. On behalf of the Township Administrator, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Kyaw Nu Myint Hlin on speaking on the occasion.—Kyang

Three Serie A clubs to answer for match-fixing

ROME, 9 May—Serie A clubs Atalanta, Novara and Siena were among the 22 Italian teams notified Wednesday that they are being investigated by sports authorities in a massive match-fixing scandal.

The other clubs named by the Italian soccer federation (FIGC) were: AlbinoLeffe, Ancona, Ascoli, Avesa, Cremonese, Empoli, Frosinone, Grosseto, Livorno, Modena, Monza, Padova, Pescara, Piacenza, Ravenna, Reggina, Rimini, Sampdoria and Spezia.

The FIGC also said 61 people and 33 matches were under investigation, including 29 in Serie B, although none in Serie A — with the allegations for Atalanta, Novara and Siena stemming from when they played in Serie B in past seasons.

Former Atalanta captain Cristiano Doni and former Lazio captain Giuseppe Signori are among the more than 30 people who have been arrested in Italy in the past year in the probe started by judicial authorities in Cremona.
Entire national people urged to make energetic efforts based on skills of departmental personnel under supervision of committees at different levels as 2014 nation-wide taking census is national concern

Most countries take the census every 10 years as the task is huge and complicated, costing a large amount of cash. After independence, the census was taken in Myanmar collecting population data in 252 townships and in Chin State in 1953, in 2143 village-tracts in main land and 1016 village-tracts in Kachin State in 1954 and the national census was taken in 1973 and 1983.

The main aim of taking the 1973-census is to help implementing the socialist economic projects, to get the number of population when the State Constitution was enacted and to collect the number of eligible voters for elections of the first Pyithu Hluttaw and Pyithu councils.

The aim of the 1983-census is to get the correct statistics for the political, social, economic and management activities, to make assessment to population, birth, mortality and population rate and to do research on the population of the country.

The aims of collecting national census in 2014 are to collect firm data for the nation’s social, economic and management affairs, to estimate and collect population data for drawing projects in the coming years, to estimate birth rate, mortality rate and changes in population and to conduct population research, to get basic data for social, economic and other censuses, to correctly compile the names of national races and to correctly locate their regions and to adopt population policies of the nation.

Moreover, by collecting nation-wide census, the nation can get local and foreign migrations, region-wise birth and mortality rates on an annual basis, regional population and employment rates as well people’s education status, economic and social conditions of households, thereby contributing to Myanmar efforts for poverty alleviation. In addition, it can also facilitate such other issues as assessment of national economic growth, cash assistance for low-income people, housing, rehabilitation, welfare, social security, care for the elderly, people, assistance for the disabled people and war veterans, social activities for women and children and fund allocations.

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