**Union Minister for Information and for Culture receives Managing Director of NTEGRATOR Co of Singapore**

Nav Pyi Taw, 10 May—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan received a delegation led by Managing Director Mr Jimmy Chang of NTEGRATOR Co of Singapore at the Ministry of Information, here, at 11 am today.

At the call, they discussed opportunities for modernizing TV broadcasting technology of Myanmar in a cordial manner. Present at the call together with Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan were Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Director-General U Thein Aung of Myanmar Radio and Television, Director-General U Ye Htut of Information and Public Relations Department, Managing Director U Ye Tint of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Managing Director U Zaw Min Oo of News and Periodicals Enterprise, the Head of Office and officials. —MNA

**Work Committee for Drawing Farmland Bylaws (Draft) and Virgin and Fallow Land Management Bylaws (Draft) meets**

Nav Pyi Taw, 10 May—The first coordination meeting of the Work Committee for Drawing Farmland Bylaws (Draft) and Virgin and Fallow Land Management Bylaws (Draft) was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here this afternoon with an address by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.

In his address, the Union Minister said that farmland laws and virgin and fallow land management laws, which are vital for the long-term interest of the entire national people including farmers, were signed and approved by the President himself on 30 March 2012, one year after the new government took office.

The Union Minister added that the laws have been formulated by legal experts and were discussed time and again at Hluttaws of different levels. The already-approved farmland laws cover 13 chapters and 43 sections while the virgin and fallow land management laws cover 10 chapters and 34 sections.

To be able to draw and approve bylaws and procedures of the laws, they were submitted to the President Office, and a 16 member committee including the Deputy Minister (Agriculture) as chairman and the Deputy Minister (Irrigation) as vice-chairman was formed and assigned duties under the President’s letter dated 2-5-2012.

The first meeting is aimed at drawing and approving bylaws and procedures of the laws capable of serving the national interest practically, he said and added that the bylaws and procedures should be not only in conformity with the State constitution but also in consistent with the mother law included in the original farmland laws, original virgin and fallow lands management laws which have been approved by the Hluttaws and signed by the President himself. And under the provision of section 248, chapter 5 of the State constitution, the region/state governments, on behalf of the President and Union government, are to exercise the laws practically putting the interest of the people in the fore.

The minister also urged those present to strictly enact the land use right so as to practically exercise the bylaws and settle farmland disputes, stating exactly the authorities of the region/state governments, and called on them to make earnest efforts to be able to put the final touches of the laws not later than 31 May 2012.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers U Ohn Than and U Khin Zaw, directors-general of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and officials from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, the Ministry of Mines, the Central Bank of the Union of Myanmar (Banking Scrutiny Department) and the General Administration Department. —MNA

**Significant Day Temperatures (10-5-2012)**

- Mawlaik (42°C)
- Kalewa (42°C)
- Monywa (41°C)
- NyaungU (41°C)
- Chauk (41°C)

**Falcao fires Atletico Madrid to Europa League glory**

**Donald, McIlroy square off at Players Championship golf**
Myanmar to be next economic frontier in Asia

The new government, elected by the choice of the people in accordance with multiparty democratic system, is now functioning. Economic, political and social transformation has been undertaken steadily in consistent with the Constitution which is in line with multiparty democratic practices. Necessary amendments to the relevant laws and regulations are being made.

The President and his administration are introducing clean government and good governance in exercise of the executive power. In this regard, transparency is being due emphasis. Therefore, the country is now witnessing encouraging signs in different sectors.

Meanwhile, foreign direct investments are being invited and economic and investment policies and investment laws are under review to be compatible with other countries in ASEAN and the region.

At a time when the country is making much headway in all spheres, the International Monetary Fund said the other day that Myanmar could be Asia’s next boom economy if the country sticks to its new path of political and economic reforms.

In its first-ever “Article IV” review of the economy, the IMF praised the initial moves to free up its currency in recent months and encouraged the government to stick to the path of reform. The report also stated that Myanmar’s new government faces a historic opportunity to jumpstart development and lift living standards, and that Myanmar could become the next economic frontier in Asia if, with appropriate reforms, it can turn its rich natural resources, young labour force, and proximity to some of the most dynamic economies, to its advantage.

Given the IMF’s remarks, it is safe to say that the country is on the right track of becoming an economic power in the region, and with the acknowledgement of the international community over reforms, we all are to strive for the country to advance towards a better future.

Union Energy Minister receives Polish FM, Hong Kong guests

During the meeting, Mr Radoslaw Sikorski explained matters on energy and mining sector in Poland. Members of the Polish delegation offered investment in Myanmar, machinery and technical services and giving training to experts from Myanmar.

Meanwhile, Union Minister U Than Htay welcomed the investment in Myanmar and technical assistance from Poland and gave a green light to sell machinery and hire technical services through the tender system.

Similarly, Union Minister U Than Htay received a delegation led by Mr Tony Shale, Chief Executive Officer Euromoney Institutional Investor Limited. During the meeting, they discussed opportunities for investment in the energy sector in Myanmar.

Polish FM donates furnishings to monastic education schools

The Polish FM donated teaching aids for four self-reliant monastic education schools in Kamayut and Hline Townships in Hline Township here this afternoon. The Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Radoslaw Sikorski, Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Radoslaw Sikorski of Poland and Vice-President of UMFCCI Zaw Min Win delivered addresses.

During the meeting, Mr Radoslaw Sikorski expressed the wish to open up the federation on Minye Kyawswa Road, here, this morning. Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Radoslaw Sikorski of Poland and Vice-President of UMFCCI Zaw Min Win delivered addresses.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Geosciences Association U Soe Myint and AGH University of Science & Technology of Poland Dr Michal Krobiicki signed the MoU.

Polish Foreign Minister Mr Radoslaw Sikorski presents teaching aids for four self-reliant monastic education schools in Hline and Kamayut Townships.—MNA

Dy Construction Minister receives Team Leader of JICA

The Polish FM donated 15 sets of chairs and desks, 40 tables and bunches, 24 bins, four big bookshelves and four small bookshelves.

3 ceiling fans, two 150 gallon steel water tanks, two water filters, 16 water bottles, 12 whiteboards and 16 cups to each school.

Chartered planes of Myanmar Airways available

Myanmar to be next economic frontier in Asia

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Debris from plane strewn on Indonesian mountain

A view of the wreckage of the Russian Sukhoi Superjet 100 aircraft in Mount Salak, West Java Province, as seen from an Indonesian Airforce Super Puma helicopter on 10 May, 2012. —Reuters

WASHINGTON, 10 May—Russian President Vladimir Putin has pulled out of this month’s Group of Eight summit in Maryland and willeatured in the Pentagon.

Putin, who took the oath as Russia’s President on Wednesday, spotlighting a roughly 10-month deployment to Singapore next spring for a naval exercise. South China Sea disputes.

Putin was recently anticipated, after the US House meeting between Putin and Secretary Leon Panetta and his Singapore counterpart, Ng Eng Hen, said in a joint statement last month after meeting at the Pentagon. MNA/Reuters

Seven killed, 16 wounded in Iraq's violence

BAGHDAD, 10 May—At least seven people were killed and 16 others wounded in separate bomb and gunfire attacks in central and eastern Iraq, the police said on Wednesday.

In Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, gunmen broke into a house of a policeman and shot dead his father and brother-in-law Hezadeana, near the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, a source from Diyala’s operations command told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The policeman himself escaped the attack as he was not at the house when the attack occurred, the source said. The separate incident, insurgents blew up a roadside bomb in the same area near a police patrol while it passing by a Sunni mosque, killing three women who were leaving the mosque and wounding six of them, the source added.

The blast also destroyed one of the police vehicles and wounded an officer and a policeman abroad, he said Elsewhere in the capital, a booby-trapped car detonated in al-Malbireh thoroughfare in northern Baghdad late on Tuesday night, killing two people and injuring eight others, an Interior Ministry source anonymously told Xinhua. Violence in Iraq has ebbed from its climaxes during the years of US occupation and sectarian strife that pushed the country to the brink of civil war, but sporadic shootings and bombings still take place across the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Eighteen beheaded in Mexico, drug gang suspected

MEXICO CITY, 10 May—Police found the decapitated and dismembered bodies of 8 people near Mexico's second-largest city, Guadalajara, on Wednesday, in what appeared to be the latest attack by the country’s most brutal drug cartel.

The attack took place at about 1000 local time when a roadside bomb hit a police vehicle patrolling on the Queretaro Road of Quetta on Thursday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Dunya.

The bodies and heads were stuffed into two vehicles abandoned on the side of a highway in the small town of Ixtlahuacan de los Membrillos, said Tomas Coronado, chief prosecutor for the state of Jalisco, and three others were injured.

Police arrested a high-ranking member of the Sinaloa Cartel, a criminal militia led by former Mexican soldiers and blamed for some of the worst atrocities in Mexico's drug war.

Guadalajara, known for its high-tech industry, once-tranquil city as the Zetas cartel won flare up in the once-peaceful city as the Zetas has been a strategic base for drug traffickers since the 1980s. Violence has flared in the on condition of anonymity. The policeman himself escaped the attack as he was not at the house when the attack occurred, the source said. The separate incident, insurgents blew up a roadside bomb in the same area near a police patrol while it passing by a Sunni mosque, killing three women who were leaving the mosque and wounding six of them, the source added.

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MNA/Xinhua

US plans 10-month warship deployment to Singapore

WASHINGTON, 10 May—The first new class of US coastal warships will be sent to Singapore next spring for a roughly 10-month deployment, the Navy said on Wednesday, spotlighting a move that may alter China’s fears of US involvement in South China Sea disputes.

Deployment of the shallow-draft ship “Freedom” will help refuel ship rotations, logistics and maintenance processes to maximize the

US's first all-new passenger jet since the fall of the Soviet Union, went missing on Wednesday about 250 miles south of Jakarta. Its wreckage, containing Russian passengers and crew, was found on Thursday.

According to reports from the Russian embassy, Sumary, chairman of Sukhoi’s Ivanovo plant, said the plane went missing after it descended to 6,000 feet near Mount Salak, which rises to 7,254 feet above sea level, a rescue official said.

Radio contact with the aircraft was lost at about 4:00 am EDT (0800 GMT) on Wednesday after it descended to 6,000 feet near Mount Salak, which rises to 7,254 feet above sea level, a rescue official said.

Putin, who took the oath as Russia’s President on Wednesday, said he would help refine crew rotations, saying the deployment would take at least six hours to walk the site, rescue officials said.

Putin and Medvedev leaders agreed to meet in Mexico in June. The 18 to 19 May gathering of the G8 at Camp David, the rustic presidential retreat in the Maryland countryside north of Washington, had been seen as an excellent chance for Obama and Putin to get to know each other. A White House meeting between Putin and Obama before Camp David had also been greatly anticipated, after the US president was recently caught on camera confiding in Medvedev that he would have more “flexibility” to tackle issues like missile defences after the US election on 6 November.

Medvedev was overheard on an open microphone telling Obama that he would “transmit this information to Vladimir.”

The airplane crashed at the edge of Salak mountain... An investigation must be done immediately and thoroughly,” President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told a news conference.

Those on board included eight crew and 42 guests, according to figures from the Indonesian Ministry of Transportation.

Blast in SW Pakistan kills one policeman, injured three others

ISLAMABAD, 10 May—At least one policeman was killed and three others were injured when a bomb hit their vehicle in Pakistan’s southwest city of Quetta on Thursday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Dunya.

The attack occurred, the source said. The separate incident, insurgents blew up a roadside bomb in the same area near a police patrol while it passing by a Sunni mosque, killing three women who were leaving the mosque and wounding six of them, the source added.

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MNA/Xinhua

Police and forensic technicians stand near one of two cars containing the remains of ten people in the parking lot of the morgue in Guadalajara on 9 May, 2012. Reuters

Soldiers arrested a high-ranking member of the Sinaloa Cartel, a criminal militia led by former Mexican soldiers and blamed for some of the worst atrocities in Mexico’s drug war.

Guadalajara, known for its high-tech industry, once-tranquil city as the Zetas has been a strategic base for drug traffickers since the 1980s. Violence has flared in the once-peaceful city as the Zetas has been a strategic base for drug traffickers since the 1980s. Violence has flared in the once-peaceful city as the Zetas has been a strategic base for drug traffickers since the 1980s. Violence has flared in the once-peaceful city as the Zetas has been a strategic base for drug traffickers since the 1980s. Violence has flared in the once-peaceful city as the Zetas has been a strategic base for drug traffickers since the 1980s. Violence has flared in the once-peaceful city as the Zetas has been a strategic base for drug traffickers since the 1980s. Violence has flared in the once-peaceful city as the Zetas has been a strategic base for drug traffickers since the 1980s. Violence has flared...
Asteroid impact crater snapped from space

WASHINGTON, 10 May— A heavily eroded asteroid impact crater in Algeria, difficult to visualize on the ground, was photographed from the International Space Station, scientists say.

The 2.2-mile-wide Ouarkziz Crater in northwestern Algeria, near the border with Morocco, was photographed 21 April by the space station’s Expedition 30 crew, which has since returned to Earth. OurAmazingPlanet reported on Tuesday.

The crater is the result of an asteroid on Earth around 70 million years ago, scientists said.

The crater is younger than the surrounding rocks, they said, although a stream channel cutting across the centre of the crater was created some time after the impact.

The Ouarkziz asteroid would have been considerably smaller, they said, than the roughly 6-mile diameter asteroid that struck the Earth near Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula 65 million years ago, usually implicated in the extinction of the dinosaurs.

That impact resulted in a crater about 1.1 miles wide. —Internet

Toyota to sell electric SUV in California

LOS ANGELES, 10 May— Toyota says it will introduce an all-electric sport utility vehicle, a crossover Rav4 model, but will only sell it in four California cities for the time being.

The automaker said it plans to sell just 23,600 over the next three years, CNN reported on Monday.

The Rav4EV, selling for $49,800, will have a driving range of approximately 100 miles with an expected 6-hour charge time on a 240 volt charger, Toyota said.

In comparison, the most expensive gasoline-powered Rav4 carries a $29,000 base price.

Rav4 EV Buyers will find features like heated seats and an 8-inch touch-sensitive computer screen included in the list price, which does not take into account a $7,500 federal tax credit for purchasing a plug-in vehicle and a $2,500 California tax credit.

“It’s designed for consumers who prioritize the environment and appreciate performance,” Bob Carter, group vice president of Toyota Motors Sales USA, Inc.’s Toyota division, said. “We look forward to seeing how the market responds.”

Toyota will build the vehicles but the batteries and electric drive systems will be provided by California-based electric car maker Tesla Motors, CNN reported.—Internet

Light from distant ‘super Earth’ detected

PASADENA, 10 May— NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope has, for the first time, detected light emanating from a so-called super-Earth planet beyond our solar system, scientists say.

Although the planet is not habitable, detecting it is a historic step in the ongoing search for signs of life on other planets, NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif, said on Tuesday.

Super Earths are more massive than Earth but lighter than gas giants like Neptune. In visible light, such planets are lost in the glare of their stars, but using infrared light the Spitzer telescope was able to detect the super Earth.

The planet, about twice as big and eight times as massive as Earth, orbits a bright star called 55 Cancri in a mere 18 hours.

Spitzer measurements of the infra-red light coming from the planet reveal it is likely dark, and its sun-facing side is too hot for life to exist, the researchers said.

A 41 light-years-away, the 55 Cancri system of five planets is relatively close to Earth.

One of the planets in the star’s system, the planet detected by the Spitzer telescope, 55 Cancri e, is closest to the star and tidally locked, soonside always faces the star, astronomers said.—Internet

Pocket fuel cell can charge cellphones

WILMINGTON, 10 May— A US company says its portable, pocket-size fuel cells can charge a smartphone a dozen times before they need refilling with butane.

Lilliputian Systems, based in Massachusetts, said it had signed an agreement with retailer Brookstone to carry its portable USB power source, which will be sold under Brookstone’s brand.

The fuel cell is about the size of a thick smartphone while the lighter fluid-filled refill cartridges are about the same size as a cigarette lighter, CNET.com reported on Tuesday.

The fuel cell can charge any device that has a USB cable, its maker said.

Lilliputian Systems is the first company to deposit a solid oxide fuel cell membrane onto a silicon wafer, Mourad Ramani, vice president of business development, said.

Lilliputian expects the idea of portable power will be attractive to travelers, college students and even teenagers who spend a lot of time with mobile devices.

“One who wants to be liberated from sticking a phone into a wall outlet,” Ramani said.—Internet

China to timely expand TD-LTE trial scale

BEIJING, 10 May— China will timely expand the trial scale for the nation’s fourth-generation (4G) telecommunications technology—TD-LTE, to speed up the sector’s development, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said on Tuesday.

The statement came after the MIIT in February approved the second stage of the TD-LTE trial, during which the focus will be testing mobile system equipment based on multi-mode chips that support a comprehensive range of telecommunications and data communication standards.

TD-LTE, or “Time Division-Long Term Evolution,” can substantially lower bandwidth costs and allow faster broadband wireless services than the current 3G network.

The country will work to make breakthroughs in the sector’s key technologies, narrow its gap with 3G/LTE and TD-LTE in Europe, and promote the technology to go global, MIIT Minister Miao Wei said.

China is the major promoter of the TD-LTE standard and a major owner of the standard’s core patents. China Mobile, the country’s largest wireless service provider, has been pushing for the TD-LTE to become a globally accepted standard.

As China’s self-developed 3G TD-SCDMA standard has missed the opportunity to see large-scale application outside the country, the TD-LTE equipment manufacturers and operators should join hands in grabbing a share in the global market, Miao said.—Reuters

How Internet detectives, and others, find out where you live

BRUSSELS, 10 May— An explosion of people checking into social networks is being exploited by mobile application makers and private detectives, who say they can use people’s online chatter and photos to track them and find out where they live.

In March, Apple (AAPL.O) stopped downloads of a “stalker” mobile application that told men where women around them were “hanging out”, using only publicly available information from social networks. But other readily available apps can do the same and more, say online investigators who use them.

When a person uses a mobile application to post a tweet on Twitter or upload a photo to the image-hosting website Flickr, sometimes so-called geolocation data can be found lurking underneath the tweet or photo. This can be used to track down their local haunts, including their home or where they study. “It is quite easy sometimes to work out which house a tweet is coming from,” said Neil Smith, a former police officer turned online researcher in Britain.

Geolocation research is a fast evolving area as most applications are built on the back of freely available open-source software.

One of Smith’s favourite applications was developed by 27-year-old Greek IT engineer Ioannis Kakavas, who calls his invention Creepy.

The free app collates geolocation data attached to a person’s tweets and pictures to figure out where they might work, said Smith, who says he uses it to track down perpetrators of insurance fraud for corporate clients.

Police officers in Vancouver, Canada and in Arizona and Colorado in the United States also say they have used Creepy in their investigations.

An array of social networks like Twitter, FourSquare, Twitpic, Flickr, Yfrog, Gowalla, and Lockerz can provide such geolocation data, Kakavas said.—Reuters

Internet
Health Tip: Seniors need their nutrients

Everyone should eat a healthy, balanced and nutrient-rich diet, especially seniors, who have special nutritional needs. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics says these nutrients are especially important as we get older:

- Vitamin D and calcium, through fortified foods, low-fat dairy products, leafy green vegetables and fish.
- Vitamin B12, through fish, seafood, lean meats and vitamin B12-fortified cereals.
- Fiber, through fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
- Potassium, through fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products.
- Polyunsaturated or monounsaturated fats, rather than saturated or trans fats.

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Toyota to preclude this year as sales accelerate

**TOYKO, 10 May—** Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T), Japan’s top automaker, expects to treble its operating profit this year to more than $12.5 billion, its highest since the financial crisis sent the global car industry skidding. Operating profit jumped more than five-fold in January-March to 238.5 billion yen ($2.99 billion), beating a consensus estimate of 223 billion yen, as vehicle production recover from disruptions caused by last year’s natural disasters. Fourth-quarter net profit jumped 121 percent to 245.4 billion yen, or $2.79 billion.

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Indonesia may limit gas export quota as domestic demand rises

**JAKARTA, 10 May—** The Indonesian government may limit the amount of natural gas shipped to overseas as the domestic demand on the commodity rises, a minister has said. Rising economic activities had pushed demand on energy that power plants, fertilizers, manufacturing and transportation need more gas. “The government will be careful [in deciding on the amount of natural gas] for new export contracts. Let’s not make it too much because domestic industries also need it,” Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Jero Wacik was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying. According to Jero, domestic consumers are now able to buy more than 50 percent of the 7,500-8,000 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas production at economic prices.

The government would also continue to improve infrastructure construction for better domestic gas distribution, he said. “Gas use will lessen the government’s reliance on fuel subsidies,” he said. —Xinhua

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Long commutes hurt heart, health

**ST LOUIS, 10 May—** Longer commute times are associated with decreased cardiorespiratory fitness, increased weight and worse metabolic risk variables including waist circumference, fasting triglycerides, fasting plasma glucose, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol and blood pressure, were measured and participants were asked about physical activity. The study, scheduled to be published in the June issue of *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, found those who drove longer distances to work reported less frequent participation in moderate-to-vigorous physical activity and decreased cardiorespiratory fitness and had greater BMI, waist circumference and blood pressure.

The association remained when physical activity and cardiorespiratory fitness were adjusted for, although to a lesser degree for BMI and waist circumference. Employees who commuted more than 15 miles to work were less likely to meet recommendations for moderate to vigorous physical activity, and had a higher likelihood of obesity, while commuting distances longer than 10 miles were associated with high blood pressure.

“Both BMI and waist circumference were associated with commuting distance even after adjustment of physical activity and cardiorespiratory fitness, suggesting that a longer commuting distance may lead to a reduction in overall energy expenditure,” Hoehner said in a statement. —Xinhua

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US fuel consumption to continue in first quarter of 2012

**HOUSTON, 10 May—** Crude oil and liquid fuel consumption continued to display weakness in the first quarter this year, falling by 670 barrels per day, or 3.5 percent from the three-month average last year, according to a report released by the US Energy Administration Agency (EIA) on Tuesday. Total US fuel consumption fell 340 thousand barrels/day, or 1.8 percent, last year, with motor gasoline consumption accounting for the bulk of that decline, shrinking by 260, the EIA said in its monthly short-term energy outlook report. In the first quarter this year, US motor gasoline consumption declined by 150 thousand barrels a day, as Americans drove the peak season of higher retail gasoline prices. Distillate fuel consumption also shrank by 150 thousand barrels/day, largely due to unusually warm weather, the EIA report said. For the rest of 2012, EIA expected more moderate year-over-year declines in motor gasoline consumption, averaging about 30 thousand barrels/day. —Xinhua

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S Korean brokerages’ earnings down 19.2 pct in 2011

**SEOUL, 10 May—** Securities firms in South Korea saw their earnings for the first year 2011 drop 19.2 percent from a year earlier due to stock-related loss and reduction in commission profits, the financial watchdog said on Wednesday. The combined net profit of 62 local and foreign securities firms operating in South Korea came in at 2.27 trillion won (1.99 billion US dollars) in the fiscal year ending March, down 19.2 percent from a year before, according to the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS).

The contraction came as stock-related profit swung to the red, which reached a net loss of 293.2 billion won last year, a turnaround from a net profit of 742.1 billion won the previous year. The local stock market saw its volatility heightened last year due to external uncertainties such as Europe’s debt crisis and the downgrade of the US sovereign credit rating. Commission-related profits declined 5.5 percent on-year to 7.93 trillion won in the fiscal year as a growth in trust commission profits was offset by a drop in commission profits coming from securities sales and brokerage fees.

Korea Investment & Securities was the best performer with its net profit reaching 230 billion won last year. Daewoo Securities came next with 172.7 billion won, and Woori Investment & Securities trailed it with 168 billion won.

Commission earnings held by the brokerages expanded 18.9 percent on-year to 237.6 trillion won as of the end of March, with total debts growing 20.5 percent to 195.5 trillion won. The net capital ratio, a key gauge of financial soundness, jumped 66.3 percentage points on-year to 620.7 percent as of end-March as some large-sized securities firms raised equity capital in preparation for the possible launch of investment banking (IB) business. —Xinhua
The euro 50 million ($67 million) Costa Concordia cruise ship, that with a capacity of 3,800 passengers is now the largest Italian-flagged cruise ship, is seen on the occasion of its unveiling in Venice, Italy, on 5 May, 2012.—Internet

### $17M settlement in deadly Philly duck boat crash

Philadelphia, 10 May—The families of two Hungarian students killed two years ago when a tugboat-guided barge slammed into and sank their amphibious sightseeing boat in the Delaware River will split $15 million after a settlement was reached Wednesday, just days into a federal wrongful-death trial that had been expected to last a month.

Eighteen surviving passengers will share $2 million in the deal, which was approved by a judge after two days of testimony.

The victims’ families were on a plane returning to Hungary and were unaware a settlement had been reached, but their attorney Brian Mongeluzzi said they were “deeply grateful to the court for recognizing that their children were important and did not deserve to die in vain.”

Szelobok Prem, 20, and Dorca Schwoordem, 16, whose group was visiting the US through a church exchange program, drowned when their amphibious sightseeing boat, called a duck boat, was slammed into the hardset embankment of the river.

### Experts go to Mt Annapurna to investigate flood cause in N Nepal

Kathmandu, 10 May—A team of geology experts with technical assistance from the Trekking Agents Association of Nepal have set out to investigate the cause of Saturday’s flash flood in the Seti river in western Nepal.

The team is expected to visit the location of the reported landslide, somewhere close to the Annapurna range, which triggered the flash flood. The exact location of the “landslide”, let alone its magnitude, remains unknown as of now. “The flood was unexpected and its actual cause cannot be learnt unless we visit the location”, the team leader Krishna KC, the head of the Geology Department of the campus, was quoted by Thursday’s The Kathmandu Post as saying.

He said the team expects to determine the cause of the flood and make necessary assessment of the damage.

In an interaction at the campus on Wednesday, one of the experts suggested that continuous rainfall in the Annapurna region a couple of weeks ago may have triggered the “landslide”. Other participants conjectured that rainfall and snowfall in the region may have taken a form of a reservoir that resulted in the flood.

Arunkabha Shrestha, a climate change expert for the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, said the nature of the Seti flood remains sketchy so far and that visiting the source could only bring out the truth.—Xinhua

### Chad soldier fires on French troops, one hurt

N’Djamena, 10 May—A man thought to be a Chadian soldier shot at two French soldiers as they left a military base near the capital N’Djamena on Wednesday, injuring one troop in the elbow, officials said.

“The two French soldiers left their base in a vehicle,” a French embassy official in Chad told AFP. “As they were about to take a main road, someone riding a motorcycle fired four times in the direction of the French soldiers, hitting one in the elbow.” A local police officer said the shooter was a Chadian soldier and had been arrested. The wounded soldier was taken to a French medical office and was due to be evacuated. His condition was not serious. French military officials said two soldiers had been targeted while on patrol.

### Britain to make U-turn on defence jet upgrade

Leveree, 10 May—Britain was on Thursday to announce it was scrapping plans to buy the preferred fighter jet for its two new aircraft carriers due to delays and spiraling costs, the BBC reported.

Prime Minister David Cameron had wanted the more capable F-35C joint strike fighter (JSF), which required new catapults and arresting gear to be fitted to the Royal Navy carriers, but has now signed off on a decision to use the F-35B, a jump-jet variant, the BBC said. The US-built F-35C was favoured as it has a longer range and can carry more weapons. But it is running over budget and falling further behind schedule.

Also, the costs of fitting “cats and traps” to the carriers is believed to have risen from around £400 million ($645 million, 500 million euros) to almost £2 billion. Defence Secretary Philip Hammond will on Thursday announce the government’s decision to use the F-35B jet, which only requires a short ramp to land and take off, according to the BBC report.

The initial plan was to go for the F-35C instead of the F-35B favoured by the former Labour government formed the centre-piece of the coalition government’s 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). Labour looks set to pounce on the government’s expected climbdown.

“This is a personal humiliation for David Cameron, who will have to now go back to Labour’s policy, which he previously condemned,” said Shadow defence secretary Jim Murphy said. —Internet
Task for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of Buddha Sasana

In order to carefully preserve the noblest tasks for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) at home and abroad, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar always attaches great importance to the implementation of this noble task. In this regard, we all Buddhists throughout the country are very pleased and greatly honoured to learn that the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar invited Myanmar Resource Management Society for Human Resource Management at the talks.

Religious titles for distinctively fulfilling two Dhammas (duties), Gantha Dhura (duty of learning and teaching of the Pitaka Scriptures) and Vipassana Dhura (duty of engaging in meditation)

(a) Abhidhajamaharaharaguru title to four eminent Mahatheras (Chief monks)
(b) Aggamaaghapandita title to ten eminent Mahatheras

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism

(a) Abhidhaja-aggamasaddhammajotikadhaja title to four eminent Mahatheras (Chief monks)
(b) Aaggamasaddhammajotikadhaja title to fifteen eminent monks including four eminent monks from abroad—one from Laos, one from the People’s Republic of China, one from the United States of America and one from UK
(c) Mahasaddhammajotikadhaja title to thirteen eminent monks including one eminent monk from abroad, USA
(d) Saddhammajotikadhaja title to twenty-eight eminent monks, one eminent nun and one layperson including six eminent monks from abroad—one from the People’s Republic of China, one from Nepal, one from Cambodia, one from Sri Lanka and two from India
(e) Kammaphalagacchacaracariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for laypersons)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three laypersons
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three laypersons
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three laypersons
(d) Sudhammamanijotadhara title to three laypersons
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for monasteries)

Title to monasteries for outstanding contributions to the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Omniscient Buddha)

(a) Mahasaddhammajotikadhaja title to the Myanmar Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) Temple in Malaysia
(b) Mahasuddhammajotikadhaja title to the Myanmar Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) Temple in London
(c) Mahasaddhammajotikadhaja title to the Myanmar Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) Temple in Australia
(d) Saddhammajotikadhaja title to twenty-eight eminent monks, one eminent nun and one layperson including six eminent monks from abroad—one from the People’s Republic of China, one from Nepal, one from Cambodia, one from Sri Lanka and two from India
(e) Kammaphalagacchacaracariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for monasteries)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three monasteries
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three monasteries
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three monasteries
(d) Sudhammmanijotadhara title to three monasteries
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for schools)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three schools
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three schools
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three schools
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three schools
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for dictionaries)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three dictionaries
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three dictionaries
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three dictionaries
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three dictionaries
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for other places)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three places
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three places
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three places
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three places
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for libraries)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three libraries
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three libraries
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three libraries
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three libraries
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for museums)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three museums
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three museums
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three museums
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three museums
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for artists)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three artists
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three artists
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three artists
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three artists
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for musicians)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three musicians
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three musicians
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three musicians
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three musicians
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for writers)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three writers
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three writers
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three writers
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three writers
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for translators)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three translators
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three translators
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three translators
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three translators
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for lecturers)

(a) Aaggmapandita title to three lecturers
(b) Sihasuddhammanijotadhara title to three lecturers
(c) Dhammachakropandita title to three lecturers
(d) Sudhammanijotadhara title to three lecturers
(e) Kammathanaçariya title to six eminent monks.
Union EP-2 Minister receives ADB Director-General

NAV PYI TAW, 10 May—Union Minister for Electric Power No.2 U Khin Maung Soe received Director-General of ADB Mr. Tony Shale, Chief Executive Officer (Asia) of Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC., and party at his office this afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to cooperation between banks of two countries.

Similarly, Union Minister U Hla Tun held talks with Mr. M Wahidul Haque, Chairman of AB Bank Ltd. of Bangladesh and party at his office yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to conducting workshops and trainings for development of the monetary sector in Myanmar and technical assistance from Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC and development of a bond market in Myanmar.

Union Finance and Revenue Minister receives guests

The Union Minister also held a meeting with Member of the House of Lord of Britain Mr. Lord Waverley, yesterday.

During the meeting with Mr. Lord Waverley, they discussed matters of suspension of sanctions imposed by the US and European Union, technical assistance for tax reforms and cooperation between the two countries.

Union Health Minister receives Global Women’s Affairs Ambassador

NAV PYI TAW, 10 May—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received a delegation led by Global Women’s Affairs Ambassador Melanne Verveer at his office here on 8 May.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on cooperation in maternal and child health care services, promotion for reproductive health care services and human resources development for the health sector.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Director-General of the Health Department Dr Tun Naing Oo, Director-General of the Medical Science Department Dr Thu Zaw Myint, Deputy Director-General of the Health Department Dr Thein Thein Htay (Public Health) and officials concerned.—MNA

CBM Governor receives World Bank East Asia and Pacific Region Director

NAV PYI TAW, 10 May—Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar under Ministry of Finance and Revenue U Than Nyein received East Asian and Pacific Region Director Mr. Tunc Tabalin Uyanik of World Bank and party at his office this afternoon.

The meeting, also attended by the vice-governor and division heads of the CBM, focused on help for economic and monetary development in Myanmar.

Duties assigned for implementation of plans at Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt said that implementation of the plans exceeded the target in 2011-2012 fiscal year which is the first year of the fifth five-year short-term plan. He stressed the need to exceed the implementation of the plans in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Deputy Director U Maung Maung of Nay Pyi Taw Planning Department reported on annual plans of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in 2012-2013 fiscal year approved in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Chairman of the council also presented assignments to township administrators and departmental officials.—MNA

Union Minister receives Qatar Airways officials

NAV PYI TAW, 10 May—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tin Hsan received Senior Vice-President Mr Robert Yang of East Asia and South West Pacific Qatar Airways, Manager Mr Joe Gendela Charles Rajadurai based in Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand and party at his office here this morning.

The meeting focused on tourism sector and suggesting Qatar Airways to manage direct flights to Ngapali (Thandwe), Heho and Bagan.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung, the directors-general, the managing director, the head of office and senior departmental officials. —MNA

Sites for port, river-water pumping tasks inspected

In meeting with the local people, he explained job opportunities and prospects for regional development as plans are under way to built Hsimeegon Port and industrial zone.

Then he inspected Hsikeinyan river-water pumping project near Hsikeinyan Village and left instructions on maintenance tasks.—MNA

Economic development party for registration as political party

Registration Law.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on cooperation between banks of two countries.

Solutions Keith Thomson of UK-based De La Rue Company and party at the ministry here this morning. They discussed matters related to security of passport and cash. Also present at the call were directors-general of General Administration Department and Special Investigation Department and officials of the committee.

MNA

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received Mr. Tony Shale, Chief Executive Officer (Asia) of Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC, and party at his office yesterday.

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Respect paid, merit shared, library opened

YANGON, 10 May—The respect paying ceremony, merit sharing ceremony for construction of Dhammayon and opening of Pyinnya Yaungchi self-reliant library were held at No. 152 on Shin Saw Pu Road in Ward 3 of Hlaingthaya Township in Yangon North District on 29 April.

The respect paying ceremony was held at two-story Sasana Yaungchi Yaungchi self-reliant library, Deputy Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Hein Lin and Patron of Library Supervisory Committee U Kyaw Win formally opened the library.

AMBULANCEDONATED: A group of friends namely U Khin Zaw, U Kyaw Kyaw Lin, U Thet Naing Oo and U Aung Thu of Muse hands over documents related to an ambulance to Baydalan Social Service Association of Aungcheetha Village in Madaya Township to Patron of the association U Win Myaung, KYEYNS.

DISTRICT NEWS

Cash donated to fund of Home for the Aged

MANDALAY, 10 May—A ceremony to set up the fund of Home for the Aged at the foot of Mandalay Hill was held at the home on 1 May morning.

The Deputy Chief Editor and staff of Sub-printing House (Mandalay) of News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information donated K 150,000 to the fund and K 15,000 for the lunch to the administrator of the home.

Moreover, staff families donated refreshments for 74 older persons of the home to officials.—Nyunt Zaw (Sub-printing House-Mandalay)

Townsiphall in 12 May.

YANGON, 10 May—The Comprehensive Development EducationCentre-CDEC will arrange the talks on Building Unity in Diversity at Thiri Annawa Hall of Myanmar Fisheries Federation at the corner of Sethu Mya Myaw and Bayinnaung Roads in West Gyonowan Ward of Insein Township at 2 pm on 12 May.

U Tin Maung Than (Social Economic Development Policy Observation Team), U Billy Kan Myat, Dr Nyo Nyo Thin and U Gyi Naing will express their opinions on their points of views.

Any interested person may attend it.—Kyemon

UNIFORMSGIVEN: A ceremony to present uniforms to staff members of Township General Administration Department was held at the township administrative office on 3 May. Township Administrator U Thein Win presents uniforms worth K 688,500 to staff members.—MYANNA ALE

Equipment for taking physical exercises installed at bund of Meiktila Lake

MEIKTILA, 10 May—Under the supervision of Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan, district and township level authorities installed equipment for health exercises for the local people along the bund of south Meiktila Lake from Panmchaung Ward to Basic Education High School No. 1 in Nandaw Ward.

“I saw reinforced concrete posts and wire meshes along the bund on Northern Lake in February. Now, we can see improvement of the bund on Southern Lake, erecting of reinforced concrete posts and fencing of wire meshes. Equipment of physical exercises have been installed there for the local people. It remains to install wire meshes there. Moreover, a plan is under way to grow shade trees and flowery plants along the ringroad of the bund. In Meiktila, a large number of people take physical exercises along the bund. The facilities provided at the bund of the lake benefit the local people and contribute to keeping Meiktila Lake clean and pleasant,” said a local people.—Kyemon

Information for trafficking in person

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

362,165 GSMs, WCDMAs installed in regions

YANGON, 10 May—According to installation of GSM, WCDMA telephone project, a total of 362,165 lines of telephones have so far been installed in regions, said Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

In the list of installation, a total of 13516 GSM telephone and 2173 WCDMA telephones have been installed in Nay Pyi Taw, 27462 GSMs and 793 WCDMAs in Sagaing Region, 6019 GSMs and 633 WCDMAs in Tanintharyi Region, 16428 GSMs and 813 WCDMAs in Bago Region (East), 12327 GSMs and 813 WCDMAs in Bago Region (West), 14615 GSMs and 1170 WCDMAs in Magway Region, 49785 GSMs and 869 WCDMAs outside Mandalay City and 8618 GSMs and 3420 WCDMAs inside the city, 32157 GSMs and 2000 WCDMAs in Yangon Region (outside), 125794 GSMs and 21684 WCDMAs in Yangon Region (local), 315 GSMs and 365 WCDMAs at Mobile Phone Exchange of Head Office, 20139 GSMs and 355 WCDMAs in Ayeyawady Region, totally 327,173 GSMs and 34,992 WCDMAs.

With regard to mobile phone Internet service, installation charge for GSM 2.75G (EDGE) was set for K 10,000 and K 4 per minute in the past. At present, charge of Internet installation is set for K 10,000 and K 2 per minute for application. Charge of Internet WCDMA/3G does not changed for K 10,000 and K 4 per minute up to now. Installation charge of Internet at CDMA 800 (EVDO) was reduced from K 30,000 and K 4 per minute to K 10,000 and K 4 per minute for application.—Kyemon

Enterprise under the Ministry of Information donated K 150,000 to the fund and K 15,000 for the lunch to the administrator of the home.

Moreover, staff families donated refreshments for 74 older persons of the home to officials.—Nyunt Zaw (Sub-printing House-Mandalay)

Furthermore, U Shwe Tin (Po Saw-Thanlyin) made speeches.

Next, the meeting elected U Saw Win (Po Saw-Thanlyin) as Chairman, U Maung Maung Oo (Thanlyin) as vice-chairman, U Shwe Tin (Maung Nyo Hmaing-Thanlyin) as secretary, Daw Moe Moe Thu (Kyi Mway Ein) as joint-secretary, U Zaw Pe (Maung Thway Yim) as treasurer and U Myo Myint (Cartoonist Equator) and U Thaw Win Kyi as executives of the new association.

Kylene

Talks on Building Unity in Diversity 12 May

YANGON, 10 May—The Comprehensive Development EducationCentre-CDEC will arrange the talks on Building Unity in Diversity at Thiri Annawa Hall of Myanmar Fisheries Federation at the corner of Sethu Mya Myaw and Bayinnaung Roads in West Gyonowan Ward of Insein Township at 2 pm on 12 May.

U Tin Maung Than (Social Economic Development Policy Observation Team), U Billy Kan Myat, Dr Nyo Nyo Thin and U Gyi Naing will express their opinions on their points of views.

Any interested person may attend it.—Kyemon
Puerto Rico aims to become fully bilingual by 2022

According to the DTI, South Africa's export to the EU are

October highlighted that Pretoria's relations with the EU

The US territory has had a long and contentious relationship with the English language, and many Puerto Ricans are skeptical about embracing it, fearing they will lose a key part of their identity and find themselves a step closer to statehood, a status that only half of about half of islanders have backed in recent polls. The governor wants Puerto Rico to become the 51st US state. But he says his plan is about economic necessity, not politics.

“Bilingualism opens doors and provides opportunity to our children so they can shine and become successful in a labor market that is increasingly competitive and globalization,” he said. Only 12 of the island’s 1,472 schools offer an all-English curriculum of the sort envisioned by Fortuno, while 35 other schools offer courses in English, such as math and physical education, said Education Secretary Edwin Moreno.

“The main idea is to have a Puerto Rican who can communicate in Spanish as well as English,” said Moreno, who plays up the natural history. "The idea is that he is an imperious command of English.—Internet

Vietnam receives 2.5 m foreign visitors in first four months

HANOI, 10 May—Vietnam received 2.49 million foreign tourists in the first four months this year, up 22.9 percent year-on-year, according to a report by Vietnam’s General Statistics Office on Thursday.

Of the total number, about 1.48 million visitors came to Vietnam for travel, posting an increase of 23 percent over the same period last year, said the report.

The number of visitors coming for business purpose were 429,500 person-times, up 26.7 percent and for visiting relatives were 441,500 people, up 28.6 percent.

In April alone, the report witnessed a strong growth in number of Korean tourists to Vietnam with 71.1 percent increase over the same period last year, said the report.

Vietnam for travel, posting an increase of 23 percent over the same period last year, according to a report by Vietnam’s General Statistics Office on Thursday.

South Africa eyes closer trade ties with EU

JOHANNESBURG, 10 May—South Africa’s Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on Wednesday said the European Union (EU) is still South Africa’s largest trade partner in the world.

The remark was made by the DTI Director General Lionel October as he spoke at the Europe Day celebration hosted here.

Europe Day is an opportunity for activities and festivities designed to bring the EU’s institutions closer to the public. Speaking to the diplomats and African government officials, October highlighted that Pretoria’s relations with the EU have matured over time and the organization “still remains the South Africa’s largest trade partner in the world.”

According to the DTI, South Africa’s export to the EU are growing and the composition of those export is becoming more diverse.

“We are gradually moving from mainly commodity-based products to a more diversified export,” October said.

Nigerian military arrests foreign ‘oil thieves’

LAGOS, 10 May—Nigeria’s military has arrested 21 Ghanians and five Nigerians for alleged oil theft as they operated two vessels in the country’s main crude-producing region, authorities said on Tuesday.

The two vessels had a capacity of 650,000 metric tonnes of crude oil,” said Lieutenant Colonel Onyema Nwochukwu.

“The 21 non-Nigerians were Ghanaians,” The arrests occurred on Monday in Nigeria’s Rivers State and were said to have occurred after a tip-off. The vessels were destroyed afterwards.

Oil theft has been a growing problem in Nigeria, and acting chief executive Peter Voser said last month that there have been estimates that 150,000 barrels of oil and condensate is stolen in the country each day.

Nigeria, Africa’s largest oil producer, has been producing between 2.0 and 2.4 million barrels per day in recent months.—Internet

S African rhinos at mercy of ‘oil thieves’

PRETORIA, 10 May—Petty hunters, corrupt wildlife officials and Asian traffickers have all been snared in South Africa’s crackdown on rhino poaching as special prosecutors battle syndicates feeding the trade in horns.

More than 160 people are currently before the courts, exposing the complex supply chain stretching from South African parks to Southeast Asian consumers, said Joanie Lemtongthai, a prosecutor with the Rhino Project.

“Slowly but surely we’re moving upwards and getting higher people who did not pull the trigger,” Spies told AFP.

The National Prosecuting Authority set up the team to help combat the dramatic surge in poaching that has seen more than 200 rhinos killed so far this year.

The cases have exposed corruption within the systems meant to protect the animals.

Private game owners, national park rangers and veterinarians have been arrested. Authorities have also caught pilots who flew helicopters to spot and dart the rhinos, and both small-time and professional hunters who shot them.

“There is a great level of organization involved,” Spies said. Some rhinos are shot by small-time hunters hoping for a lucky break by capturing a horn that sells for more than its weight in gold in Asia, where it is used in traditional medicine.

Not all of these hunters know what they’re doing. One man in April saved off a horn from a fiberglass rhino serving as a decoy in a safari lodge.

Other rhinos are killed by professionals who have helicopter support in tracking and darting the animals before hunters shoot and de-horn them.

Whoever does the shooting, the horns can end up in the hands of the same Asian kingpins, Spies said.

Vietnamese and Thai nationals have been arrested for trying to smuggle horns abroad.

In one case, Thai national Chumlong Lenthongtai faces trial for colluding with a South African game farm owner to stage legal trophy hunts.

He is accused of hiring Thai strippers and prostitutes as hunters who posed with the massive beasts’ carcasses to document the kills to obtain some of the handful of legitimate export licenses for mounted rhino horns.
US drops plan to close rural post offices

WASHINGTON, 10 May—The US Postal Service said on Wednesday that it is abandoning for now its plan to close 3,600 post offices in rural locations and instead will shorten their hours of operation.

The change represents a victory for US lawmakers and rural communities who had launched a backlash against the cash-strapped agency last summer when it began considering more than 3,600 post offices for closure this year.

Rather than shuttering offices starting next week, when a self-imposed moratorium on closings was set to end, the plan is to cut the operating hours of 3,600 locations with little traffic to between two and six hours a day.

“We’ve listened to our customers in rural America and we’ve heard them loud and clear - they want to keep their post offices open,” said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. “There’s no plan for closings at this point.”

The new plan would save more money — roughly $500 million annually compared to $200 million under the old plan — and could placate some lawmakers in Washington who have been critical of the virtually bankrupt agency as it pushes for other controversial changes, such as ending Saturday mail or raising postage rates.

London finance firms seen cutting 25,000 jobs in 2012

LONDON, 10 May—Jobs in London’s finance sector will slump to their lowest level for 16 years as the euro zone crisis is predicted to cause over 25,000 layoffs in 2012.

That would push the number of jobs lost in the City of London since the top of the financial boom in 2007 to 100,000, the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) said.

The economics consultancy revised its forecast for the average number of London finance jobs for 2012 down to 255,000, the lowest since the first quarter of 1996, from a prediction of 288,000 made six months ago. Many of the forecast additional layoffs have already taken place, it said.

Its analysis showed there were an average of 280,350 financial services jobs in London in 2011.

Additional cuts were down to the impact of the euro zone crisis on banks, despite interventions in the past few months by the European Central Bank (ECB) to provide easy cash to lenders, the CEBR said.

Lenders were hit hard last year by euro zone troubles, which dented trading revenues, while regulations are also squeezing profits and cutting firms to cut staff.

Major banks in the United States, Europe and Asia announced plans for more than 130,000 job cuts last year, according to a Reuters tally.

ECB Actions were slowly filtering through to the banking system, however, and could help stabilize the City of London job market from 2013, when the CEBR is forecasting a modest recovery.

It said London finance jobs may rise to 268,000 by 2016—still well below staffing levels of the last decade.

“London remains the top ranked financial centre but its lead has narrowed,” said Douglas McWilliams, CEBR chief executive, adding the gap was closing due to a combination of weak demand, regulation, high taxation and the competitiveness of Eastern financial centres.

S Korean C bank freezes key policy rate for 11 months

SEOUL, 10 May—The Bank of Korea (BOK) left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 2.25 percent on Thursday, keeping its rate freeze stance for 11 straight months despite conflicting factors such as lingering downside risks to the economy and the concerns about inflationary pressure.

Governor Kim Choong-soo and monetary policy board members decided to freeze the 7-day repo rate at 2.25 percent at the May rate-settling meeting. The BOK has lifted the borrowing costs by a total of 125 basis points (bps) in five steps since July 2010.

The decision was in line with market expectations as experts predicted that the BOK will not move the policy rate because of lingering risks to the economy such as political uncertainties in Europe and worsening economic data at home and abroad as well as the remaining concerns over supply-side inflationary pressure.

Downside risks to the Asia’s No.1 economy lingered due to uncertainties at home and abroad. South Korean economy created more than 400,000 jobs in March, but output in the mining and manufacturing sectors shrunk 3.1 percent in March from a month earlier.

China foreign trade growth slows, surplus widens

BEIJING, 10 May—China’s foreign trade rose 2.7 percent year-on-year to 308.06 billion US dollars in April, with a surplus of 18.42 billion US dollars, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said on Thursday.

The growth rate represents a month-on-month slowdown and surplus has widened from the 53.5 billion US dollars for the January-April period, the GAC said.

China saw trade surplus of 19.3 billion US dollars during the January-April period, the GAC said.

The European Union remained China’s largest trading partner in the first four months, but the bilateral trade growth has slowed considerably to just 0.3 percent year-on-year to 170.53 billion US dollars. During the January-April period, China’s trade with the United States — its second-largest trade partner — increased 9.2 percent year-on-year to 146.1 billion US dollars, according to the GAC.

Two killed, 16 injured in vehicle pile-up in central Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 10 May—A pile-up of 17 vehicles on Wednesday caused the deaths of at least two people and injured another 16 on a highway in central Mexico, police sources reported. Officials said three cargo trucks and one police car were among the vehicles crashing into one another around 9:30 am local time (1430 GMT) on a stretch of highway linking the capital of Mexico City with the northern state of Queretaro.

Police sources said it appeared a tractor trailer slammed into several cars that had been stopped on the highway by a previous accident. Two other trailers also smashed into the pile-up.

Police placed the exact location of the multiple collisions at Km 159 of the Mexico City-bound lane, near the town of San Juan del Rio, Queretaro. Rescue workers, paramedics and firefighters were dispatched to the scene to help the victims while traffic has been suspended along the roadway to facilitate rescue efforts and tow away the wreckage.

Cancer death rate falls in Canada

OTTAWA, 10 May—Canada’s cancer death rate is dropping, according to data released on Wednesday by the Canadian Cancer Society.

Between 1988 and 2007, death rates caused by cancer dropped by 21 percent in men and 9 percent in women, resulting in almost 100,000 lives saved in the period.

In 2010, cancer death rates were seen in all four major cancers — lung, colorectal, breast and prostate — which still account for 53 percent of newly diagnosed cancers in both men and women.

The smaller decline in female death rate is due to an increase in lung cancer deaths among women and is believed to be the result of women’s smoking rates not beginning to decline until the 1980s. By contrast, smoking rates among men began to drop two decades earlier and is seen as a significant reason why cancer death rates for men dropped by 30 percent between 1988 and 2007.

More Canadians die of lung cancer every year than the combined deaths from breast, colorectal and prostate cancer, and it is the leading cause of cancer death among women, indicated the data.

Although smoking rates among Canadians has fallen from 50 percent in 1965 to 17 percent in 2010, it still accounts for 27 percent of all cancer deaths.

Veterans of World War II present flowers to Eternal Flame in Bishkeke, capital of Kyrgyzstan, on 9 May, 2012. Commemorations dedicated to the 67th anniversary of Victory in Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 were held here Wednesday.—Xinhua.

The venue of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is seen in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9 May, 2012. More than 700 participants from over 70 countries registered to attend the forum from Wednesday to Friday to address the continent’s transformation and related solutions to the challenges facing the land.—Xinhua.

China’s trade with the United States — its second-largest trade partner — increased 9.2 percent year-on-year to 146.1 billion US dollars, according to the GAC.—Xinhua.
Vessel will be arriving on 11-5-2012 and cargo will be

time.

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TRANS PACIFIC-5 VOY NO (332) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-5-2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

MARK ROTHKO 1961 oil painting

Christie’s blockbuster sale

smashed artists’ records at

Jackson Pollock, Yves Klein

Mark Rothko 1961 oil painting

the year.

recession at the beginning of

economy, which slipped into

the Bank of England’s decision

contraction.

permanent jobs in Britain

British retail sales posted their

largest increase in British retail sales since March last year, following a 1.3 percent rise in

by March.

The large-scale work

at auction.

Weaker retail sales, jobs surveys raise risk of

longer slump

The British Retail Consortium said on Wednesday that like-for-like retail sales - or sales at stores open for the same period - declined 3.3 percent in value terms compared to April 2011, following a 1.3 percent rise in March.

The reading, the weakest since March last year, confounded analysts' forecasts for a 0.5 percent increase.

Stephen Robertson, BRC Director General, said the weakest April since records began had hurt sales of summer clothing and outdoor products, while a longer Easter weekend early in the month

meant that some Easter shopping was shifted into

the post-Christmas sales in London on 27 Dec.

Babies, seen by some as a

from China containing the

smuggling of capsules

intensified a crackdown on

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that the art market, at least at the top echelons, continues to defy world economic and geo-political strife.

This photo, released by

Korea Customs Service on 8

May, shows capsules filled

with powdered human flesh,

in Daegu, S Korea has

intensified a crackdown on

smuggling of capsules from China containing the powdered flesh of dead babies, seen by some as a cure for disease, according to a customs official.

China to probe 'human flesh' pills claims

| Shoppers search through clothes racks at Harrods department store during the post-Christmas sales in London on 27 Dec, 2011. | 12/27/2011 | REUTERS |

China will investigate South Korea claims that the country is the source of smuggled capsules made from human flesh, but said it had found no such evidence yet, Chinese State media said on Wednesday.

The gruesome practice came to light Sunday when Korea Customs said it had found 35 attempts to import from China 17,451 capsules containing the powdered flesh of dead babies, taken as a disease cure or to boost sexual performance.

A spokesman for China’s Ministry of Health said on Tuesday that a previous investigation had uncovered no evidence such capsules were made in China, the official Shanghai Daily newspaper reported.

“The health authority has carried out a thorough investigation but so far no such capsules were found,” spokesman Deng Hailu was quoted as saying.

Reports of the capsules first surfaced in South Korean media in August last year. Deng said, adding the government would further probe the claims.

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Gorilla taken to hospital for jaw surgery

A 432-pound silverback gorilla made a trip to the hospital to be treated for a broken jaw inflicted by another gorilla at the zoo in Omaha, Neb, officials say.

Officials at the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium said they believe Motuba, a 28-year-old gorilla affectionately nicknamed “Tubby,” suffered the injury at the hands of Tattoo, a 14-year-old gorilla at Omaha World-Herald reported.

Tubby was taken to the Nebraska Medical Centre and became the third zoo animal in six years to be treated at the facility.

Dr William Lydiatt, a head and neck surgeon and zoo volunteer who led Tubby’s surgery, said the procedure took about 30 minutes. He said the team removed the broken upper jaw fragment and three teeth.

Lydiatt said Tubby is expected to recover fully in two to three weeks.

Dr Julie Napier, the zoo’s senior veterinarian, said Tattoo has been temporarily separated from the rest of the gorillas. She said he is “a youngster feeling his oats.”

Dr. Wilmering said the piece, which was unveiled Monday to commemorate the Tuesday start of the 2012 US Chess Championships, which has been hosted by the club since 2009, was certified by Guinness World Records as the largest on the globe.

The previous record holder, a 13.1-foot-high king, was built by Mats Allanson in Sweden in 2003.

Zoo nurses Nelson the ugly baby parrot

An official at a German zoo said Nelson the parrot, rejected by his mother at birth has been described as possibly “the ugliest bird in the world.”

Timm Sprekle, deputy director of the Leipzig Zoo, said Nelson was immediately rejected by his mother, Owaka, despite being the only one of three chicks to survive hatching, The Local reported.

Sprekle said zoo worker Petra Strecker has been feeding Nelson for the past seven weeks with a homemade parrot food paste but the baby bird’s survival is in question.

“She is not quite out of the woods yet because she’s not yet taking food herself,” Sprekle said.

The parrot has gained a measure of celebrity, with the newspaper Bild describing him as “a cross between a roast chicken and an alien” and Britain’s Daily Mail suggesting he “could be the ugliest bird in the world.”

Spears signs ‘X Factor’ deal

LOS ANGELES, 10 May— US pop star Britney Spears has signed a $15 million deal to be a judge on the US version of the UK talent show “The X Factor” alongside Simon Cowell and LA Reid, E! News said.

“The contract is signed,” a source close to the singer told the entertainment news network.

“There’s been a lot of back and forth over the past few weeks as they negotiated the small details, but she’s on. It’s all completed and Britney is beyond excited,” the insider said. “She’s ready for this.”

She can’t wait to sit down next to Simon at the judges’ table and give this everything she’s got.

She is excited about showing the world that she can do this, and do this well.

This is the perfect next stage in her career. Both Britney and Simon are very excited to work together.”

Gloria Estefan to appear on ‘Glee’

LOS ANGELES, 10 May— Cuban American singer Gloria Estefan confirmed on Wednesday, via Twitter, her upcoming participation in the successful musical television series “Glee” in the role of the mother in Cherio Santana, played by Naya Rivera.

It is Rivera to whom Estefan directs her messages, it is not her new husband, her ex-husband’s brother, but her daughter’s father.

In addition, Estefan has posted several photographs on Twitter of the show’s set, with the caption “excluding the set today.”

“Excited to work together.”

Tourists drawn to Michigan prison

LOS ANGELES, 10 May— Jessica Chastain said on Fox she wouldn’t be able to play a supporting role in the casino-themed “Iron Man 3” because her schedule is too hectic.

Chastain earned an Oscar nomination for her work in “The Help.” Her other projects include television shows “Dexter” and “The Debt.”

She said she wouldn’t be able to play the role as she’d hoped.

“Sorry to say that Iron Man 3 isn’t going to work out,” she wrote on her Facebook page Monday.

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“My schedule is jammed packed and I can’t fit anything else in. The press announced my possible attachment far too soon. I know many of you wanted me to be involved, and I’m so sorry to disappoint you. Hopefully there’ll be another Marvel film in my future. Shane Black and everyone on the IM3 team are really wonderful. I’m very excited to see the film when it comes out.”

Sofia Vergara and Nick Loeb break up

NEW YORK, 10 May— Modern Family” star Sofia Vergara has broken up with stockbroker Nick Loeb, her boyfriend of more than two years, the New York Post reported on Wednesday.

The couple split during the weekend following a series of arguments and the actress attended Monday’s Costume Institute Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan by herself.

“Sofia was confiding in friends at the ball that she and Nick have split,” an insider told the Post. “They have been fighting a lot recently and have been on the brink of splitting many times. It is not yet clear if they are over for good, but they are done as a couple for now.”

The couple met at a Golden Globes party in 2010, the newspaper said.

US pop star Britney Spears

The show’s producers have not yet announced who will serve as the host or fourth judge on Season 2 of the TV talent show.

Chastain hasn’t time for ‘Iron Man 3’

LOS ANGELES, 10 May— Jessica Chastain said on Fox she wouldn’t be able to play a supporting role in Hollywood’s “Iron Man 3” because her schedule is too hectic.

Chastain earned an Oscar nomination for her work in “The Help.” Her other film credits include “The Tree of Life,” “Take Shelter” and “The Debt.”

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The couple met at a Golden Globes party in 2010, the newspaper said.

Post-Dispatch reported.

“This piece serves as a monument to the chess culture we are creating in St Louis,” club spokesman Mike Wilmering said. Wilmering said the piece, which was unveiled Monday to commemorate the Tuesday start of the 2012 US Chess Championships, which has been hosted by the club since 2009, was certified by Guinness World Records as the largest on the globe.

The previous record holder, a 13.1-foot-high king, was built by Mats Allanson in Sweden in 2003.
Athens, 10 May—The traditional ceremony to light the Olympic flame takes place at the ancient site of Olympia in Greece on Thursday, signalling the final countdown to the start of the Games in London. An acting priestess will light the flame using the direct rays of the sun, in a solemn occasion attended by the president of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, as well as London organizing committee chief Sebastian Coe. Greek President Carolos Papoulias is also expected to attend, despite the debt-crippled country in political paralysis after Sunday’s parliamentary elections, which saw parties hostile to austerity measures gain ground.

After giving thanks to the god Apollo, “king of the sun,” and the torch ceremony was “a very big moment” for him, adding: “It’s very moving. I am trembling from the emotions. It is the highest honour for an athlete to do this. The ceremony marks the start of Olympic stadium in Athens, site of the first modern Games in 1896. A British delegation will receive the flame at the time ceremony on 17 May. The last flame-bearers in Greece will be the weightlifter Pyros Dimas and the Chinese gymnast Li Ning, who lit the cauldron at the last Olympics in Beijing in 2008.

Japan’s Olympic swimmers defy altitude fears

Tokyo, 10 May—Japan’s Olympic swimmers will prepare for this year’s London Games by undergoing altitude training in the mountains to acclimatize to the thin air of victory. The World Cup 2004 — claimed a “home-town decision” had robbed him of a chance to put the disappointment behind him and he had been dropped by his promoter for his next fight. Khan has since moved from trainer Juan Carlos screen to Freddie Roach. He has been training in Las Vegas and is expected to return to the ring after the Olympic Games.

JBF light heavyweight titles in December in a controversial split decision. But Golden Boy said Petersburg’s failed drug test announcement.

Japanese swimmers asked for high altitude sessions in June and July not to be scrapped, local media reported, adding that doctors would be dispatched to monitor the athletes.

London prepares with Olympic torch set to be lit

London was greeted by Chris Hughton since he have been ably managed by Stephen Dobbie and Matt Phillips eased them into a comfortable lead but City, who have been ably managed by Chris Hughton since he stepped in after Alex McLeish left last summer, fought back.

BIRMINGHAM, 10 May—Blackpool will play West Ham in the Championship play-off final later this month after they edged Birmingham City 3-2 on aggregate after their playoff second leg match finished 2-2 here Wednesday. It will mean an immediate return to the Premier League for the winners of the play-off final as they along with promoted Milton Keynes Dons were relegated last season.

Blackpool - who started their maiden Premier League campaign in style but then their form dipped alarmingly leading to relegation - looked to be in firm control after taking a 2-0 lead at the start of the game. Everyone was looking forward to the mouth-watering clash of two teams who have been fighting against relegation for the past few months.

Blackpool set up Hammers play-off final date lead at their hosts. Goals by Stephen Dobbie and Matt Phillips eased them into a comfortable lead but City, who have been ably managed by Chris Hughton since he stepped in after Alex McLeish left last summer, fought back.

Blackpool s Matt Phillips, pictured in February 2012. Internet

Boxing

Khan boxing rematch with Peterson cancelled

WASHINGTON, 10 May—The much-anticipated rematch between Lomant Peterson and British boxer Amir Khan has been cancelled after the American failed a drug test, Golden Boy Promotions announced.

Peterson and Khan had been due to fight on 19 May in Las Vegas, after the American took the WBA and IBF light-weight titles in December in a controversial split decision. But Golden Boy said Peterson’s failed drug test announcement.

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Man United’s Hernandez will not compete at Olympics  

MANCHESTER United striker Javier Hernandez will not play for Mexico at this summer’s London Olympics, his club announced on Thursday. Hernandez, who turned 24 on June 1, had initially been called up as one of Mexico’s three over-age players, but United have now agreed with the Mexican FA he will have the summer off instead. United boss Sir Alex Ferguson told the club’s website: “His form last season was fantastic. He’s found the summer for his country. "Next year he will be fine if they are not in the England squad for Euro 2012."  

Russia foils alleged plot on Sochi Olympics  

MOSCOW, 10 May—The advanced tailoring course No 23 and the basic domestic science course 35 were opened at Women’s Vocational Training School of Education and Training Department in Muse on 7 May morning. Deputy Commissioner U Moe Hein of Muse District General Administration Department made a speech. Principal Daw Nan Saw Yin explained the subjects to be conducted at the training school. The deputy commissioner and officials greeted the trainees. Altogether 42 trainees are attending the 14 weeks course.

Basic vocational courses opened in Muse  

Russia said on Thursday, it had foiled a plot by Islamist militants to stage attacks on the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi and in the run-up to the games in the southern Russian city. The National Anti-Terrorism Committee NAC: said Russian special services had confiscated weapons including mortar shells, small arms and portable surface-to-air missiles during raids on May 4 and 5 in the breakaway Akhazh region of Georgia, the former Soviet republic with which Russia fought a brief war in 2008. It said in a statement that the group behind the plot was the Caucasus Emirate, which is waging an Islamist insurgency across Russia’s North Caucasus region close to Sochi and is on the United States’ list of terrorist groups.

Van Gogh museum unveils new willow watercolor  

AMSTERDAM, 10 May—A young Vincent van Gogh was so struck by a dead willow leaning “lonly and melancholy” over a pond near The Hague that he knew at once he had to paint it. "I'm going to attack it tomorrow morning," he wrote to his brother Theo on July 26, 1882. The Van Gogh Museum unveiled the painting Thursday, the first addition in five years to its world-famous collection of works by the postimpressionist master. At a time when the artist was still honing his skills in perspective, anatomy and proportion using pen and pencil sketches, the watercolor was a bolt from the blue, although its muted tones are still a far cry from the exuberant color across Russia’s North Caucasus region close to Sochi and is on the United States’ list of terrorist groups.

realms of the natural world, and the life of the imagination. The museum’s curators of prints and drawings. "The Sunflower," a spellbinding series of drawings, captures the essence of the plants Van Gogh sketched. It has a kind of spellbinding effect that lingers and collects. "The Sunflower," a spellbinding series of drawings, captures the essence of the plants Van Gogh sketched. It has a kind of spellbinding effect that lingers and collects. The Van Gogh Museum unveiled the painting Thursday, the first addition in five years to its world-famous collection of works by the postimpressionist master. At a time when the artist was still honing his skills in perspective, anatomy and proportion using pen and pencil sketches, the watercolor was a bolt from the blue, although its muted tones are still a far cry from the exuberant color across Russia’s North Caucasus region close to Sochi and is on the United States’ list of terrorist groups.

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In this photo released by the Van Gogh Museum a young Vincent van Gogh from his early Dutch period. — Internet

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Russia foils alleged plot on Sochi Olympics  

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Van Gogh museum unveils new willow watercolor  

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**Informal advanced meeting on green economy, green development held**

Unison Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun speaking at informal advanced meeting on green economy and green development between departmental officials and high-ranking officials from ADB and Green Economy Group.—MNA

**Asia-Pacific Junior Golf Championship 15-18 May**

**YANGON, 10 May—**Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, the 33rd Asia-Pacific Junior Golf Championship 2012 will be hosted by Myanmar at Pan Hlaing Golf Course in Hlinethaya Township from 15 to 18 May.

The championship will be categorized as 15-17 aged as group A, 13-14 aged as group B, 11-12 aged as group C and under 10 aged as group D.

Youth golfers from the Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, India and Malaysia including Myanmar will take part in the championship.

The championship will be co-sponsored by Pan Hlaing Golf Club, Higer Bus (Myanmar), Elite Express, Srixon, Alpine and Han Golf Masters Pvt Ltd.

For further information, contact Han Golf Management, Tel: 01-651374 and 09-2037671.

MNA

**Fire drill demonstrated at CBM**

**NAY PYI TAW, 10 May—**The talks on hazard of fire was held in conjunction with the fire drill at the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday morning.

Assistant Director U Win Myint of Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement gave talks on fire preventive measures. It was attended by about 300 staff and officers of Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA

**Antarctic octopus study shows west Antarctic ice sheet may have collapsed 200,000 years ago**

**SCIENCE DAILY, 10 May—**Scientists at the University have found that genetic information on the Antarctic octopus supports studies indicating that the West Antarctic Ice Sheet could have collapsed during its history, possibly as recently as 200,000 years ago.

Genetic data from more than 450 Turquet’s octopuses, collected in species in the Southern Ocean that surrounds Antarctica, were analysed to shed new light on how animals disperse across the varied ocean landscape. Adult Turquet’s octopuses tend to live in one place and only move to escape predators, leading scientists to believe that creatures from areas either side of Antarctica would be genetically different.

The team from Liverpool, in collaboration with National University of IrelandGalway, and LaTrobe University, Australia, however, found that the octopuses from Ross and Weddell Seas, which are now separated by the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, are genetically almost identical, suggesting that these two regions may have once been connected. Findings may contribute to recent studies demonstrating the potential impact that increasing global temperatures could have on the changing Antarctica environment.

Dr Phill Watts, from the University’s Institute of Integrative Biology, explains: “We looked at information gathered by the Census of Antarctic Marine Life, which allowed us to examine genetic data on a scale that had not been done before in this area of the world. We expected to find a marked difference between Turquet’s octopuses living in different regions of the ocean, particularly between areas that are currently separated by approximately 10,000km of sea.

MNA

**First IRS Inter-Club Pencak Silat Championship concludes**

**YANGON, 10 May—**The final match of the First Inter-Region/State Inter-Club Pencak Silat Championship 2012, organized by Myanmar Martial Arts Federation, was held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mongala Taunggyant Township this morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaugk Hlaik presented championship shield to Dagon Min Sit Naing club.

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**Williams beats Wozniacki in Madrid Masters comeback**

**MADRID, 10 May—**Serena Williams staged a recovery at the expense of Caroline Wozniacki as the Americans reached the quarter-finals of the Madrid Masters 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 on Thursday in a battle of former number one players.

The comeback win in thekwintup Williams into a showdown with second seed Maria Sharapova, who earned her last-eight place when opponent Lacie Safarova withdrew before their match with stomach illness.

Williams sleep-walked through the opening set as Denmark’s sixth seed had it all her own way in half an hour.

After trailing a set and 1-2, the momentum suddenly shifted in Williams’ favour, with the ninth seed breaking for 2-1 with a backhand down the line and finishing a run of a dozen points in succession to lead 4-2.

Williams, the 2009 runner-up to Dinara Safina, levelled at a set each and ran off the third to end the thread of four breaks of serve in a disheartening loss for Wozniacki.

The Dane had been bidding for a sixth quarter-final of the season. Wozniacki, who won joint WTA-leading six titles in 2011 is still searching for her first of 2012.

Williams has now won ten straight matches and has run-up to Dinara Safina, levelled at a set each and ran off the thread to end the thread of four breaks of serve in a disheartening loss for Wozniacki.

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MNA

**Denmark’s Caroline Wozniacki claimed the last six when facing Sharapova, the world number two and recent Stuttgart champion.**

Inthemenwthandx on the blue clay of the Caja Magica, Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych ended the injury comeback effort of Frenchman Gael Monfils, the number 12, with a comprehensive 6-1, 6-1 victory. Monfils was playing for the first time since a March abdominal muscle problem. The flamboyant French player lost serve five times while never coming a break point against Berdych.