True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Priority task of government is to satisfy desire, fulfill requirements of people

Work coordination meeting on more effectively carrying out national and regional development tasks concludes

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May —President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivered a concluding address at the work coordination meeting on more effectively carrying out the national and regional development tasks held at the President Office here at 9 am today.

It was attended by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, union ministers, region and state chief ministers and chairmen and officials of the self-administered division and zones.

Participants of the meeting discussed reform process sector-wise during the meeting.

In his concluding address, the President said being elected by the people, the government is to make efforts for satisfying the desire and fulfilling requirements of the people, considering the task is its priority.

The government has been making endeavors to ensure prevalence of peace and stability in the country and to promote the socio-economy of the people which are desired by the people, he added.

For the peace and stability of the country, the government has been working hard to achieve political stability while taking steps to make peace with ethnic armed groups after laying down policies.

He also stressed the need to step up efforts for promoting the agricultural sector for the food sufficiency in the future as part of efforts for promoting the socio-economy and for building an industrial country to bring prosperity to the people.

(See page 8)

Note: The image contains additional articles and updates which are not fully visible in this description.
Myanmar delegation led by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker pays study visit to Tokyo Stock Exchange, National Diet Library

**Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May** — A Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint on 9 May morning visited Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo. They were conducted round by Chairman and CEO Mr Saito and officials.

At the meeting hall, Mr Saito extended greetings and explained the establishment of Tokyo Stock Exchange in 1872, sales of shares in the current stock market and the importance of stock market in a nation for its economic development.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker asked questions about stock exchange and stock market.

The Myanmar delegation next visited Keidanren, a Japan business group. All the meeting with Chairman of Asia and Oceania Committee Mr Kawamura and executive committee members and Japanese businessmen, the Speaker explained Myanmar’s reform measures for its politics and economy, invitation of local and foreign investments, drafting of foreign direct investment law and special economic zone law and establishment of special economic zones.

On arrival at National Diet Library, the Speaker and delegation members were briefed by Chairman Mr Onuki and Head of Research Department Mr Yamaguchi on keeping of publications, records on parliamentary meetings, records on statements and laws issued by the nation, providing of documents and books necessary for the parliament, visits of MPs and people to the state-owned library, measures being taken to let the people know about the parliamentary functions, keeping of records on MPs’ discussions during parliamentary session, installation of electronic system with the library so that documents can be read at the touch of a button and maintenance of the library. After raising some questions, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw said that libraries play an important role in human resource development, adding that they were on a visit to the library as they wanted to study procedures and methods of Japan’s parliamentary library. Myanmar has its national library for public study.

He went on to say that Myanmar is also planning to cooperate with Japan in building a network between the parliaments of the two nations, in exchanging publications and online study.

Then, the Speaker and party signed in the visitors’ book and look round in the library. The National Diet Library was opened in 1948 and it is one of the largest libraries in the world. It keeps 37 million books published both internally and externally. Documents on parliamentary sessions, documents on State announcements and laws. It has also kept records on discussions of MPs made beginning the first parliamentary meeting in 1942.

Secretary General of House of Councillors of Japan Mr Ha Shimoto gave an account of organizational set-up of the house and strength of staff and parliamentary functions. They then exchanged views on parliamentary issues.

In the evening, Japanese Former Prime Minister Mr Taro Aso and Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe hosted a dinner to Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and delegation members.

Myanmar-Japan friendship.

They exchanged views on parliamentary issues.

Chairman Dr Khin Shwe and General Secretary U Ye Htut also attended the dinner and they made cordial discussion on further strengthening of Myanmar-Japan friendship.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Amooytha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Mr Nya Nyen, who was also a delegation member, called on Japanese Prime Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano at the latter’s office in the evening. During the meeting, they exchanged views on industrial trade and investment. — MNA

**Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Projects Implementation Committee**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May** — A work coordination meeting between Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Projects Implementation Committees took place at the office of Nay Pyi Taw Council there on 10 May morning.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw spoke of the need to know if the aims of projects yield real benefit for the public, collect correct data, review the implementation of the tasks of the 2011-2012 projects, realize the aims of the provisions included in national planning projects for 2012-2013 fiscal year, review progress in implementation of project tasks yearly and every three months, systematically draw projects for 2013-2014 FY, 2014-2015 FY and 2015-2016 FY and draw project plans that benefit both short- and long-term interests, implement eight tasks of rural development and poverty alleviation and collect combined data.

Next, committee chairman Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Than Htun discussed undertaking of the projects and functions of the committee. Then, the deputy minister gave a concluding remark. — MNA

**Work coordination meeting between Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Projects Implementation Committees in progress.** — MNA

**PERSPECTIVES**

**Sunday, 13 May, 2012**

**Into the list of Asian Tigers**

As national development drive calls for the progress of private sector, the government has been enacting new laws and making legal amendments offering wider opportunities for citizen entrepreneurs extend their businesses and cooperate with international counterparts. Moreover, it has been inviting and paving ways for global nations and institutions to render assistance and pump more investments into Myanmar economy.

As there are now offers of global nations and financial institutions for greater cooperation and more investments in the nation, the domestic private sector needs human resources improvement both in quality and quantity, and the Union ministries and region/state governments on their part need adoption of new strategies and tactics based on national and regional development projects for ministry-wise and area-wise reforms covering such sectors as agriculture, industry, education, health, and the priority list for sector-wise implementation of these new strategies and tactics.

More and more independent associations, foundations, domestic non-governmental organizations, federations and so on are emerging in the country alongside the new private companies large and small thanks to the reforms that guarantee a safe and secure business environment apart from opening new business frontiers in banking, transport, insurance, tourism, mining, trade, agriculture, farming, fisheries and entertainment.

Here, another important factor for national economic development is the enforcement of laws, rules and procedures and the elimination of irregularities in the entire business field and curbing of malpractices including cronyism and favoritism, especially in the part of administrative bodies at all levels.

Only then, will our country win better international trust and reputation one of sustainable and crucial advantages for robust gross national economic growth that will put Myanmar in the list of Asian Tigers.
NATO Head urges Pakistan to open transit routes

WASHINGTON, 12 May— A US appeals court on Friday revived two lawsuits accusing employees of two defence contractors of conspiring to torture and abuse Iraqis detained at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad and at other locations.

A 14-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, based in Richmond, Virginia, refused to intervene and dismiss the suits against CACI International Inc and L-3 Communications Holdings Inc, sending the cases back to district courts for further proceedings.

After the military invasion of Iraq in 2003, the United States hired contractors from US-based CACI and L-3 to provide translators and help conduct investigations. In 2004, photographs emerged depicting the abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. A number of military personnel were disciplined, but no contractors were charged.

In 2008, a number of Iraqis filed suits against CACI and L-3, accusing their employees of inflicting physical and sexual abuse, electric shocks and mock executions on prisoners.

District courts in Virginia and Maryland rejected the companies’ attempts to dismiss the suits. The companies had filed an interim appeal, before the cases could proceed, asking the 4th Circuit to throw out the claims. They pointed to a 2009 ruling by a federal appeals court in Washington, DC, that had dismissed a similar suit against the companies — a decision the US Supreme Court allowed to stand.

Oil-tanker hijack causes no impact to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 12 May— The hijack of an oil-tanker carrying 950,000 barrels of crude oil for Indonesia in the Arabian Sea off Oman is not going to impact on the production of refinery in Indonesia as the country has more stockpile, official said.

The vessel, M/T SMYRNA, a Liberian flagged tanker, isoperated by a Greek firm. It lost contact on Thursday at 18:15 pm Jakarta Time (1115 GMT). “The hijack of tanker carrying 950,000 barrel crude oil of Azery from Azerbaijan is not going to disturb the production of whole refinery in the country, particularly the refinery in Balikpapan (of East Kalimatan) which is the destination of the crude oil,” Mochamad Harun, spokesman of the state oil-and-gas firm PT Pertamina said in a statement on Saturday. “The Pertamina has had a back up system of crude supply that allowed the Balikpapan refinery continue operation normally,” he added.

Two killed, 16 injured in bomb attack in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 May— At least two people including one policeman were killed and 16 others injured when a remote-controlled bomb hit a police convoy in Pakistan’s northwest city of Peshawar on Saturday morning, said police and hospital sources.

Javed Khan, Superintendent Police Headquarters of Peshawar, told local media that one policeman was killed and six others were injured when a police convoy carrying four prisoners got hit by a roadside planted bomb on the GT road in the Gulbahar area of Peshawar.

Hospital sources said that 17 injured people including six policemen and 11 civilians had been admitted into hospital following the blast and one of the injured civilians later died at hospital. They said that three of the injured people were still in critical condition, indicating a possible rise in death toll.

Earlier reports said that four people were killed in the blast.

The bomb attack took place at about 9:00 am local time when a police convoy comprising one pickup and a car was hit by a bomb hidden inside a tin container planted by the roadside while on the way sending back the four prisoners to the neighbouring city of Mardan after completing some court procedures in Peshawar.

José Pérez Chávez strode, sang and gave a rousing speech on Friday in a careful show of ease from his plane, hugged ministers, inspected a military guard and improvised a song at the end of a 20-minute speech.

“Today we are not only able to hit Tel Aviv as a city but, anywhere in Israel and anywhere in occupied Palestine,” Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised address.

Hezbollah is said to be the most powerful armed group in the region, with thousands of fighters fighting alongside Iran-backed groups in Syria and Iraq.

Hezbollah says able to strike any place in Israel

BEIRUT, 12 May—The leader of Lebanon’s Hezbollah said his militant group was capable of striking any target in neighbouring Israel, saying “the days when we fled and they did not over are over”.

“Today we are not only able to hit Tel Aviv as a city but, God willing, we are able to hit specific targets in Tel Aviv and anywhere in occupied Palestine,” Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised address.

“I come with great optimism that this treatment will have the effects we hope for, always asking God to help us and give us the miracle of life to keep serving.”

The official line in recent weeks has been that Chavez was out of the public eye. But observers said that while the 57-year-old was not visible in public, he continued to run the country from behind the scenes.

Chavez is due to stand for re-election in October and has said he would run to the end of his term in 2019. He has been in power since 1999 and is one of the world’s most popular leaders.

“With Chavez, Venezuela is going to be ahead,” said one opposition leader. “The streets are empty, but people know he is still there.”

Chavez has said he will run for a fifth term in 2019, although he has not formally announced his candidacy.

Prison guards secure the main gate of the newly named Baghdad Central Prison in Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib on 21 Feb., 2009. Internet

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Biodiversity loss hits environment

SANTABARBARA, Calif., 12 May—Biodiversity loss has as much negative impact on the environment as climate change and pollution, scientists at a California university say. An international research team working at the University of California, Santa Barbara, examined the effects of various environmental stressors on plant growth and decomposition, crucial maintenance processes in any ecosystem, and found the greater the plant species loss the higher the negative impact on plant growth.

“For the past 15 years, ecologists have built a rich understanding of the consequences of humans driving species extinct,” researcher Jennifer Byrnes said in a UCSB release.

“We didn’t know before this paper is whether those impacts of species loss rank up there with those from the major drivers of environmental change,” he said.

The effects of biodiversity loss were similar to the effects from other environmental stressors including global warming and pollution.

Biodiversity should be considered alongside the more prominent forms of environmental impacts, he said.

“One thing this study opens up is the need to better understand the interactions between environmental degradation of the change and species loss. They’re not independent, and may interact in some particularly unexpected ways,” said Byrnes.

NARA in test of rover for Mars mission

DEMONT DUNES, Calif., 12 May—NASA scientists say they have completed mobility tests on California sand dunes in preparation for operating the Curiosity rover currently on its way to Mars.

Researchers with the agency’s Mars Science Laboratory mission took a test rover to Dumont Dunes in the Mojave Desert this week to improve the test rover’s mobility system. The test rover utilized a full-scale version of Curiosity’s mobility system but was stripped down so it weighs about the same on Earth as Curiosity will weigh in the lesser gravity of Mars, the researchers said.

Tests on windward and downwind portions of dunes will help the rover team make decisions about Curiosity on dunes near a mountain in the center of Gale Crater, they said.

Curiosity is on track for landing 5 Aug to begin a two-year prime mission to investigate whether the area around its landing site has ever offered an environment favorable for microbial life.

World’s most expensive USD 1.9m bicycle unveiled

MELBOURNE, 12 May—The world’s most expensive and eco-friendly push bike has been made public and is on display at the Lentsos Museum of Art in Linz, Austria.

The 1.9-million-dollar ‘Farfallari Farfall FX’ with a top speed of 16 km per hour, is the brainchild of Austrian artist Hannes Langeder, News.com.au reported. But rather than using V12 horse power, the ‘car’ operates with pedals where the accelerator and brake would be in a normal car.

Langeder built the car as part of an art project that anticipates a ‘future top model of an actually existing automobile brand’.

The two-seat ‘super bike-car’ is aerodynamically designed, contains 11 gears, skinny wheels that work in tandem and two ‘gullwing’ doors that open upwards.

The car’s name comes from the German word for bicycle - fahrrad, which stems from the Italian word for butterfly - ‘farfalla’.
Common household chemicals ‘behind cancer and reduced fertility’

LONDON, 12 May—Commerical chemicals found in household products may be the reason behind a range of medical problems such as cancer, reduced fertility and obesity, Europe’s environmental watchdog has warned.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has warned that other items such as cosmetics and medicines, which contain endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), could be harmful to humans.

In a study published on Thursday, officials said that there was strong evidence of harm and cautioned against their use but stopped just short of recommending a complete ban.

According to the agency, five classes of chemicals need more scrutiny.

These included phthalates, which are often found in pesticides bisphenol A and other PCBs, which are increasingly found in sunscreens and chemicals used in contraceptive pills.

It found those chemicals, which disrupt the hormone system ‘may be contributing factor behind the significant increases in cancers, diabetes and obesity, falling fertility and an increased number of neurological development problems in both humans and animals’.

The agency said that in recent decades, there has been a significant growth in many human diseases and disorders including breast and prostate cancer, male infertility and diabetes.

It added that many scientists believe that the growth was connected to the ‘rising levels of exposure to mixtures of some chemicals in widespread use’.

The agency also said that the link between some diseases and those disrupter chemicals was now fully accepted.

The findings, in a report titled ‘The impacts of endocrine disruptors on wildlife, people and their environments’, were made following a review of scientific studies literature commissioned by agency over the past 15 years.

‘Scientific research gathered over the last few decades shows us that endocrine disruption is a real problem, with serious effects on wildlife, and possibly people,’ the Telegraph quoted Jacqueline McGlade, the EEA Executive Director, as saying.

‘It would be prudent to take a precautionary approach to many of these chemicals until their effects are more fully understood,’ McGlade said.

She said the reported problem was not a single chemical but the ‘cocktail effect’ of many of them together.

Sonos shares at near 32-year lows on strategy doubts

Tokyo, 12 May—Shares in Sony Corp slumped more than 7 percent to nearly 32-year lows, as investors doubted the Japanese consumer electronics giant has a strategy to fix its loss-making TV business and compete in the smartphone market against Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics.

The last time Sony shares were this low, in the summer of 1980, its first walkable portable cassette player had just gone on sale in the United States. The maker of Bravia TVs, Vaio laptops and PlayStation games consoles on Thursday posted a record annual loss of $5.7 billion, but forecast a first profit in five years. It said it was taking losses at its ailing TV business.

The profit forecast was below analysts’ expectations.

Japanese firms, which long dominated the global TV industry, have been overtaken by Samsung and LG Electronics (066570.KS), which are rolling out next-generation sets using organic light emitting display (OLED) in a reshaping of Asia’s flat panel sector. A stronger yen, which erodes the value of exports, has also hurt.

“In the past” if you wanted a top quality TV you had to buy a Sharp, Panasonic or Sony. Those days are gone,” Steve Durose, Senior Director and Head of Asia-Pacific at Fitch Ratings, told Reuters last month.

“I didn’t see anything positive in there (Sony’s results),” said a trader at a US bank. “There’s really nothing in there that can justify buying the stock. You see the loss narrowing in the TV business. That’s fine, but I don’t see any future in the TV business, so it doesn’t matter what they do.”

Shares of Panasonic Corp, which makes Viera TVs, also fell, 1.6 percent, to their lowest close in more than three decades. After the market closed, Panasonic also posted a record annual loss of $9.7 billion, and predicted return to profit this year after a heavy blow of cost-cutting and restructuring.

Health Tip: When your knee is unstable

Your thighbone has a v-shaped notch that accommodates your kneecap. If the groove is too narrow or shallow, the kneecap can become unstable and dislocate. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons says symptoms of an unstable kneecap include:

* A buckling knee joint that can’t support your weight.
* A kneecap that seems to slide to the side during movement.
* Pain in the front of your knee that worsens when you’re running.
* Stiffness, swelling or pain when you sit down.
* Cracking or creaking noises in your knee while you’re moving.

Tool cuts down on ER CT scan exposure

The researchers said that 14 percent of emergency room patients get scanned, contributing to ballooning healthcare costs. The researchers investigated a new tool embedded within patients’ electronic medical records that walked physicians through a series of questions that served as checks and balances for their decision to order a CT scan to investigate a patient’s abdominal pain.

The doctors were quizzed on what diagnosis they were looking for, from appendicitis to colitis to an ovarian cyst or tumor, and how likely they thought it that a patient had that problem. If a medical resident ordered the test, it had to be approved by an attending physician before the patient could receive the scan.

Blood test may help identify kids’ smoke exposure

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 May—More than half of the children who took part in a study on exposure to cigarette smoke tested positive for such exposure, despite only a handful of their parents admitting to lighting up, according to a United States (US) study. Parents may think their children are exposed only if they’re around someone actively smoking a cigarette, or are unaware of where else their children may be breathing in smoke - but a blood test may help identify and reduce smoke exposure, said researchers at the University of California, San Francisco.

Secondhand smoke exposure in children has been tied to sudden infant death syndrome, respiratory problems, ear infections and asthma. ‘What the test does is allow the doctor, in consultation with the parent, to figure out the source of exposure and then to eliminate it,’ said Professor Jonathan Winickoff, an associate professor of paediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children in Boston. —Reuters

Sony logo is seen as customers look at Sony’s digital cameras at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 10 May, 2012.—INTERNET

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Indonesia jet crash bodies sent for identification

JAKARTA, 12 May — Body bags containing the remains of people aboard a Rusian jet that smashed into an Indonesian mountain, arrived in Jakarta on Saturday as Russian investigators landed to join the probe.

Rescuers said the bodies of those who perished when Sukhoi’s new Superjet 100 hit Mount Salak in western Java on Wednesday, killing all on board, were badly dismembered.

Officials said the remains of the victims found so far had been placed in 16 body bags. Two had already arrived at a Jakarta hospital for identification with four more on the way.

“This morning we have 16 body bags. On Friday, there were 12, and four more were filled today (Saturday). No body was found in its whole form,” West Java provincial military chief Sonny Widjaja said.

Each bag could contain the remains of more than one victim, he said. Officials said on Friday that 12 bodies had been found. A woman at Jakarta’s Halim Perdanakusuma military airport, where the doomed flight took off, fainted as she watched men carry the first two body bags from a helicopter.

The remains were taken by road to the Kramat Jati Police Hospital in east Jakarta for DNA identification. Relatives, told to wait at the hospital, waited as they watched the bags arrive before being taken to the forensics division.

Soldiers carry a body bag containing the remains of passengers of the ill-fated Sukhoi plane crash, on arrival at Halim Perdanakusuma airport in Jakarta, on 11 May. — Reuters

Indonesia jet crash bodies sent for identification

Tokyo faces ‘extinction’ in 1,000 years

TOKYO, 12 May — Japanese researchers on Friday unveiled a population clock that showed the nation’s people could theoretically become extinct in 1,000 years because of declining birth rates.

Academics in the northern city of Sendai said that Japan’s population of children aged up to 14, which now stands at 16.6 million, is shrinking at the rate of one every 100 seconds. Their extrapolations pointed to a Japan with no children left within a millennium.

“If the rate of decline continues, we will be able to celebrate the Children’s Day, public holiday on 5 May, 3011 as there will be one child,” said Hiroshi Yoshida, an economics professor at Tohoku University.

“But 100 seconds later there will be no children left,” he said. “The overall trend is towards extinction, which started in 1975 when Japan’s fertility ratio fell below two.”

Yoshida said he created the population clock to encourage “urgent” discussion on the issue. Another study on population projections showed Japan’s population is expected to shrink to a third of its current 127.7 million over the next century.

Government projections show the birth rate will hit just 1.35 children per woman within 50 years, well below the replacement rate.

Meanwhile, life expectancy — already one of the highest in the world — is expected to rise from 86.39 years in 2010 to 90.93 years in 2060 for women and from 79.64 years to 84.19 years for men.

More than 20 percent of Japan’s people are aged 65 or over, one of the highest proportions of elderly in the world.

Japan has very little immigration and any suggestion of opening the borders to young workers who could help plug the population gap provokes strong reactions among the public. The greying population is a headache for policymakers who are faced with trying to ensure an dwindling pool of workers can pay for a growing number of pensioners. — Internet

Two arrested after five children die in British house fire

LONDON, 12 May — British police arrested two people on suspicion of murder after five children died in a house fire on Friday in the central English city of Derby.

“Sadly I can now confirm that five children have died, and their ages range from five to 10 years,” said Assistant Chief Constable Steve Cotterill of Derbyshire Police.

Detectives are keeping an open mind about what caused the fire, he told a news conference. A 28-year-old woman and a 38-year-old man were arrested separately on suspicion of murder.

The fire, which occurred just before 0630 on Friday, had already been in the family home for 30 minutes before firefighters arrived, said Chief Constable Cotterill.

“When we arrived, the house was engulfed in flames,” said Kirby. “From the scene, I can confirm that there were at least five children in the property and all five children were killed.”

The two suspects were taken to hospital where medical tests were carried out after they were arrested in connection with the fire.

Police have arrested a woman in her twenties on suspicion of murder after the death of five children in a fire in this house in Derby. — Internet

Three Boston U students killed in New Zealand crash

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Meanwhile, life expectancy — already one of the highest in the world — is expected to rise from 86.39 years in 2010 to 90.93 years in 2060 for women and from 79.64 years to 84.19 years for men.

More than 20 percent of Japan’s people are aged 65 or over, one of the highest proportions of elderly in the world.

Japan has very little immigration and any suggestion of opening the borders to young workers who could help plug the population gap provokes strong reactions among the public. The greying population is a headache for policymakers who are faced with trying to ensure an dwindling pool of workers can pay for a growing number of pensioners. — Internet

Two arrested after five children die in British house fire

Attacker in Afghan uniform kills US soldier

KABUL, 12 May — An American soldier wearing an Afghan army uniform shot dead a US soldier in the east of the country, one of two NATO troops killed on Friday, military officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

Also Friday, the US-led military coalition offered condolences to the families of Afghan civilians who were killed in airstrikes earlier this month.

The shooting was the 75th incident this year in which Afghan soldiers or insurgents disguised in military uniforms have turned their weapons on foreign troops.

The killings have increased the level of mistrust between the US-led coalition and its Afghan partners and raised questions about the readiness of local forces to takeover from NATO ahead of a 2014 deadline for the withdrawal of foreign combat troops.

An Afghan defence official said the incident took place in Kunar Province in northeast Afghanistan. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

NATO did not disclose the nationality of the soldier killed, but a Pentagon spokesman, Navy Capt. John Kirby, said the service member was an American.

An Afghan child looks at UN Humanitarian chief Valerie Amos, unseen, during her visit to an informal settlement in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 9 May, 2012. — Reuters

Another BU student, Margaret Theriault, was airlifted from the crash site to a hospital in Taupo in New Zealand after being injured. — Reuters

And Joseph Bergen, the US vice consul in Auckland, New Zealand, identified the deceased students as Daniel Lekhno, Roch Jauaherty and Austin Breshers, according to the Boston University website. New Zealand police confirmed their identities.

Another BU student, Margaret Theriault, was airlifted from the crash site to a hospital in Taupo and was in critical condition, the university said.

Attacker in Afghan uniform kills US soldier

Barrie Kirby, said the service member was an American.

A 28-year-old woman and a 38-year-old man were arrested separately on suspicion of murder.

The fire, which occurred just before 0630 on Friday, had already been in the family home for 30 minutes before firefighters arrived, said Chief Constable Cotterill.

“When we arrived, the house was engulfed in flames,” said Kirby. “From the scene, I can confirm that there were at least five children in the property and all five children were killed.”

The two suspects were taken to hospital where medical tests were carried out after they were arrested in connection with the fire.

Police have arrested a woman in her twenties on suspicion of murder after the death of five children in a fire in this house in Derby. — Internet

Three Boston U students killed in New Zealand crash

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International Urban Rescue Course concludes in Ye

**Yangon, 12 May**—Ye Township Fire Services Department of Mon State concluded the International Urban Rescue Course No 2/2012 at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 29 April morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Tun Naing Win made a concluding remark.

Next, Mon State Minister U Naing Llaw Aung presented completion certificates to the trainers and the Township Administrator, the Commander of Township Police Force and the head of Township Fire Services presented certificates of honour, auxiliary fire brigade member cards and duty assignment to the trainees.

**Preventive measures against diarrhea and dysentery taken**

**Yangon, 12 May**—Under the arrangement of prevention against diarrhea and dysentery, officials of Shwepekyitha Township Health Department, Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the ward administrator inspected wastes and sanitation of fly-proof latrines in ward 6 of Shwepekyitha Township on 5 May afternoon.

Next, officials gave talks on health knowledge. After that, they provided commodes and pipes to the needy households for construction of fly-proof latrines.—*Myanma Alin*

**Information for anti-human trafficking**

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

In so doing, telephone numbers are announced as the connections with authorities concerned for enabling the people to actively participate in anti-human trafficking activities.

These telephone numbers are 067-412555 and 067-412666 in Nay Pyi Taw, 09-49555566 in Moxe, 09-49555777 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

**Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in Thingangyun Township**

**Yangon, 12 May**—The 51st ceremony of Kason water pouring at Bo tree was held at Yan Myo Aung Pagoda in Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region on 5 May.

It was attended by Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Golf Federation U Aung Kyi, executive U Chan Han, Chairman of Myanmar Golf Course Maintenance Group U Myo Dan and executives and officials of the golf courses. Vice-President U Aung Kyi explained the purpose of demonstration to upgrade the golf courses in Myanmar.

At the demonstration, golf course experts Mr John Neylan, Mr Phil Ryan, Mr Peter Sawyer and Mr Gavan Wilson discussed maintenance of golf courses in detail and replied to questions raised by those present.

The discussion was jointly sponsored by LINKS gold services, Pacific Coast Design and Ham Golf Masters Pte Ltd.—*Myanma Alin*

**Maintenance of golf course discussed**

**Yangon, 12 May**—Jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar Golf Course Maintenance Supervisory Group, the demonstration on golf course maintenance techniques and discussions was held with the sponsorship of Forest Park Group at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon on 5 May.

It was attended by Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Golf Federation U Min Thein and U Aung Kyi, executive U Chan Han, Chairman of Myanmar Golf Course Maintenance Group U Myo Dan and executives and officials of the golf courses. Vice-President U Aung Kyi explained the purpose of demonstration to upgrade the golf courses in Myanmar.

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**New library building opened in Myaungmya**

**Myaungmya, 12 May**—With the aim of broadening the horizon of the rural people, Shwe Alin Ein Library was opened in Shwelunkon Village of Hmbo-Byaingpyu Village-tract in Myaungmya Township on 23 April.

Wellwisher U Ko Tin, Village administration member U Hla Win and Staff Officer of Myaungmya Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Hla Kyi formally opened the library.

The library building is 18 feet long and 12 feet wide and concrete floor. The building was constructed at a cost of over K 900,000 by wellwisher U Ko Tin and local people.—*District IPRD*

**Pazundaung Township Writers Association formed**

**Yangon, 12 May**—A ceremony to constitute Pazundaung Township Writers Association was held at Pazundaung Township Information and Public Relations Department on 6 May morning.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Min Thura and CEC member of Myanmar Writers Association U Ohn Maung (Myinmoo Maung Naing Moe), CEC member U Khin Swe (Shwe Sun Nyo) and members.

U Khin Aung (Reporter Khin Aung) presided over the meeting. U Than Tun (Thiha Yayawady) as secretary, U San Myint (Yekyaw Soe Aung) as joint secretary, Daw Nilar Tun (Nilar Tun) as treasurer, U Kyaw Lin (Zoo Myint) and U Wai Myint (Tektako Hla Kywe) as joint treasurer, U Khin Aung (Thiha Ayeyawady) as assistant secretary and members.

The talks were attended by vehicle owners, drivers, bus conductors, members of All Private Bus-line Control Committee and gate owners, members of Padetha and Htay Kywe villages.

The deputy commissioner of Pazundaung Township Information and Public Relations Department made a speech, Head of District Transport Planning Department U Hla Myint explained the work licence, Head of District Directorate of Road Administration U Aung Win 1 gave talks on traffic rules and disadvantages of traffic rule offenders, penalty for traffic rule offenders, educated period and project to take action.

Township Engineer U Soe Myint of Public Works and IP Zaw Zaw of District Traffic Police Force explained matters related to their respective sectors.

Later, officials replied to queries raised by those present.—*Myanma Alin*

**TALKS ON TRAFFIC RULES GIVEN IN HINTHADA**

**Hinthada, 12 May**—Under the supervision of Hinthada District General Administration Department made a speech. Head of District Transport Planning Department U Hla Myint explained the work licence.

Head of District Directorate of Road Administration U Aung Win 1 gave talks on traffic rules and disadvantages of traffic rule offenders, penalty for traffic rule offenders, educated period and project to take action.

Township Engineer U Soe Myint of Public Works and IP Zaw Zaw of District Traffic Police Force explained matters related to their respective sectors.

Later, officials replied to queries raised by those present.—*Myanma Alin*

**Notes**

**FSD**

**Bo tree watered**

Local people pour water at Bo tree for 11th time at Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image in Insein Township on 5 May, Fullmoon Day of Kason.—*District IPRD*
Priority task of the government...

(from page 1)

A lot of Myanmar people are working in foreign countries as migrant workers due to job shortages in the country, causing loss to the country, he said. Therefore, it is needed to establish industrial zones, plants and factories by inviting foreign investors in the country as part of efforts for creating job opportunities so that Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries can get jobs at home and to make efforts for producing value-added products to export to foreign countries, he added.

He also called on region and state governments and chairmen of self-administered division and zones for putting relentless efforts in taking steps to make peace with ethnic armed groups as prevalence of the peace and stability of the country is sine qua non for promoting the socio-economy of the people. He also urged them to encourage and provide assistance within the framework of law to the ethnic armed groups who are holding peace talks with the government.

Union Minister oversees regional development tasks in Shan State

NAV P YT TAW, 12 May—Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Myint, accompanied by Shan State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Aung Thu and departmental officials, met lecturers and national races youths at Border Area and National Races Youth Development Training School in Lashio on 8 May.

He said the government is striving for narrowing the development gap among national races, ethnic people need to pursue formal education while young, they could contribute to their own regions only with hard work, and the country would develop only when the national race regions develop. So, he called for flourishing of union spirit and striving for development of their regions.

He then proceeded to Vocational Training School in Lashio where he met trainees and called for flourishing of union spirit.

The Union minister inspected Takawat-Monggat-Pangasan road constructed with the Border Area Development Fund on 9 May and arrived at Panawng in “Wa” Special Region (2) in the evening.

On 10 May, he inspected development of Pangsan, Basic Education High School and People’s Hospital.

In meeting with “Wa” Special Region (2) national leader U Pauk Ya Chan and party, he discussed that the Union government would take measures for endurance of genuine peace between itself and “Wa” Special Region (2). The organization should avoid behaviours that could cast doubt on peace. The government would continue to realize development of “Wa” Self-Administrated Division.

Roads in the region are being upgraded with the Border Area Development Fund. The government would seek international assistance for border area development. His trip was bound to bring about peace and development to the region, he said.

He coordinated border area development tasks and attended to the needs. The Union Minister then discussed cooperation of the region in drug elimination and peace-making at Union level. The Union Minister presented cash assistance of K449.5 million for development of the region.

He then viewed rubber and tea plantations on his way from Pangsan to Mongla.

Yesterday, the Union Minister visited Shan State (East) Special Region (4) Drug Elimination Museum and attended to the needs.

On arrival at Mongla People’s Hospital which was constructed with the Border Area Development Fund, he comforted the patients.

The Union Minister for Development Affairs Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint unveiled the stone inscription, Region Minister for Planning and Economic Development Fund, he comforted the patients.

At Mongla Special Region (4) Headquarters, he met Vice-Chairmen U San Lu, U Tun Lin and party of the region who discussed necessities of the region. He attended to the needs and said his trip was intended to strengthen peace and engagement between the government and the region. He reiterated his call for avoidance of behaviours that could lead to mis-understanding on prevailing peace. The Union minister guaranteed the all-round development of the region as well as international aids.

The Union Minister provided K 31 million assistances for the region.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister inspects Natka Dam

YANGON, 12 May—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint on 8 May inspected Dhammmithaya Nursery in Taungthla Township and gave instructions on greening of Taungtha Hill and the whole township.

After looking into Natka Dam near Medi Village of Pyawbwe Township, the Region Chief Minister gave instructions on cultivation of crops on 1200 acres of farmlands in the irrigated area of Natka Dam, systematic supply of water and supplying surplus water to 2430 acres of farmland.

He viewed thriving Paletwe paddy plantation on eight acres of farmland in Sitha Village, thriving NWechi-6 long staple cotton in Wetlet Village-tract and Kyauksa Lake in Pyawbwe Township and Kyoei Lake in Yamethin Township.

Shwekon-Pilakhat concrete road opened

U Than Myint, Region Minister for Forestry and Energy U Kyaw Soe, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and officials formally opened the new road.

The 18480 feet long, 18 feet wide and eight inches thick concrete road was built at a cost of over K700 millions—MNA.

The Union Minister provided K 31 million assistances for the region.

He then visited rubber and tea plantations in the region.—MNA
Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw…
(from page 16)
They then proceeded to Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport where they stayed.
The Myanmar delegation paid homage to Todaiji Buddha Image in Nara of Nara District and viewed religious edifices. The Buddha Image was erected since 749 AD and is 15 meters high.
The delegation also visited Todaiji Nara Park and viewed environmental conservation there.
The speaker and party in the evening arrived at Kyoto Hotel Okura in Kyoto where they stayed.—MNA

Kayin State Chief Minister supervises development undertakings
NAV PYITAW, 12 May—Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min on 7 May viewed collective ploughing of morosson paddy and broadcasting of natural fertilizer near Tawunphanya Model Village in Hpa-an Township.
In Shwegun Village of Hlaingbwe Township, Chief Minister U Zaw Min and wife Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai, state ministers and social organization members paid respects to 101 years old Daw Aye Kyu.
He looked into progress of Myainggyingu-Methawaw asphalt road and thriving sugarcane plants. At Thitsa Linmyaing war veterans housing, he cordially greeted the families and presented cash assistance to the war veterans who sacrificed limbs.
The State Chief Minister presented cash assistance to patients and staff at Myainggyingu Station Hospital.
At Myainggyingu Basic Education High School, he met teachers and local people and then viewed nurturing of 90,000 rubber saplings.
The State Chief Minister delivered an address at opening of advanced tailoring course and basic domestic science course at the training schools in Myainggyingu, Hpa-an and Myawady.—MNA

Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism holds third conference
YANGON, 12 May—The third annual conference of Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism of Myanmar Medical Association was opened at Traders Hotel, here, this morning.
Chairman of MMA Prof Dr Kyaw Myint Naing and Chairman of Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism Prof Dr Tint Swe Latt made speeches. They also unveiled the medicinet and medical equipment salesrooms.
The conference will be held till 13 March. Those present will participate in 11 symposiums.
At the conference, the participants will exchange views on latest findings of diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis and goiter diseases, therapies of international level and research results.—MNA

Asia Rowing Federation Umpiring Commission views preparations for rowing event
NAV PYITAW, 12 May—The Leading Committee for Preparations for Organizing theXXVIISEA Games invited scholars and experts of respective sports for holding the games meeting international standards.
The Leading Committee is preparing for the stadiums, gymnasiums, swimming pool and lakes, supporting buildings and equipment.
Thimmorning, Chairman Mr Nicholas Ee of Asia Rowing Federation Umpiring Commission together with officials of Myanmar Rowing Federation viewed the preparations for the competitions at Ngakhaik Dam in Nay Pyi Taw Kywesbin.
Officials of Ministry of Sports and MRF and construction engineers held talks with Mr Nicholas Ee who gave necessary suggestions for preparations.—MNA

Loans disbursed for Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation in Tatkon Township
NAV PYITAW, 12 May—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing this morning attended the disbursement of loans at the rate of K 200,000 per acre held at Yeaye and Naungdonaiing village-tracts in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and made a speech.
The Union Minister in his speech expressed his pleasure for cooperation of AyeyWa Hintha Co of Myanmar Rice Industry Association for development of agricultural sector stressing the importance for the farmers and the company to cooperate with mutual trust and understanding. The Union Minister also urged the farmers to produce quality paddy in order to gain high price and international market and proper storage of paddy.
He also called on farmers to hand down the achievement of the current paddy filed as a total of over 50000 acre in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to be put under Palethwe hybrid paddy in the coming paddy cultivation season and to do their bit for the development of agriculture sector as Palethwe hybrid paddy can benefit them a lot.
Next, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Shwe made a speech and called for those farmers to impart the agricultural knowledge to farmers throughout the township.
Awards, General Manager of AyeyWa Hintha Co U Tin Ohm made a speech, calling for farmers to produce quality paddy and pledged to build the modern rice mill in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and presented K 2.2 million for 110 acres.
After that, the Union Minister and party looked into the thrived 110 acre Palethwe hybrid paddy and fertilizer, Palethwe hybrid paddy plants, paddy seeds displayed near the briefing hall.—MNA

Coord meeting on Asia Pacific Junior Golf Championship held
YANGON, 12 May—The coordination meeting on 33rd Asia Pacific Junior Golf Championship to be hosted by Myanmar at Pun Hlaing Golf Club from 15 to 18 May was held at the hall of Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Sports in Tamway Township this afternoon, with an address by Yangon Region Minister U Than Myint.
Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute Director U Tin Win reported on fulfillment for requirements in the championship, Executive of Myanmar Golf Federation U Phyo Hlaing, and other officials of the championship will participate in the championship.—MNA

Talks on spa & health care services on 14 May
YANGON, 12 May—Talks on beauty and health care services in northern region of Thailand will be conducted by Department of International Trade Promotion of Ministry of Commerce of Thailand at Chatrium Hotel in Tamway Township from 9 am to noon on 14 May.
After the talks, the department and Myanmar entrepreneurs will hold a business matching over business opportunities for spa and health care services of Thailand from 1 to 5 pm. Those who are interested in the meeting are invited to participate in the business matching.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Speaker of Lower House of Japan Mr YOKOMICHI.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and party view meeting hall of Upper House of Japan.—MNA
Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw meets Deputy Speaker of Upper House of Japan, tours Tokyo

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Mr Khin Aung Myint arrived at Tokyo University on 7 May and they were briefed by Executive Vice President Research Professor Mr Koichi Ono. They said that Tokyo University is a centre turning out novel prize winners and that two post graduate candidates and five doctorate candidates from Myanmar are now learning at the university; that at present it is learnt that Myanmar is in the process of political, economic reform; that the university is desirous of cooperating in the development of Myanmar in whatever way it can; that they were pleased to see the visit of the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and party to Japan; Japanese people have learnt that Myanmar people are religious and hard working; that arrangements have been made for researchers of the university to conduct researches in Myanmar; that the university focuses on research in line with its motto “Freedom and Innovation” and it will cooperate with Myanmar in national development and human resource development.

After asking for his knowledge about the university, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw said that democratization process calls for system change; that the legislative, administrative and judiciary are being exercised separately based on check and balance system in line with the Constitution of Myanmar; that steps have been taken for all national races to participate in the political process; that with the prevalence of peace and stability the country is making progress in economic sector; that Myanmar welcomes the researchers of the university; that friendship between the two peoples is in fostering Myanmar-Japan friendship; and that the visit to Japan by Myanmar delegation is aimed at further cementing Myanmar-Japan friendship; and that the visit to Japan by Myanmar delegation is aimed at further cementing Myanmar-Japan friendship.

Afterwards, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw presented books and documentaries on Myanmar. Next, the Myanmar delegation proceeded to South East Asian research division where they were briefed by Professors Mr Hiroshi Shimizu and Mr Koichi Fujita on research works, and the professors introduced them with Japanese researchers and Myanmar trainees studying there. The Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw said that he was pleased to see professors of the university and Myanmar trainees; that the new findings of a researcher can benefit the whole people in the world; that Myanmar is making much headway in economic sectors with peace and stability prevailed in the nation; that environmental conservation is a must in that regard. Afterwards, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw requested Japanese researchers to teach Myanmar trainees into becoming outstanding researchers and called for Myanmar trainees to try their utmost to be able to bring honour to the nation. Next, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and party had a documentary photo together with officials of the university.

Afterwards, they were hosted a lunch by Japan-Myanmar Association. Also present at the launch were Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association Mr Koji Chino and executives.

Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association Dr Khin Shwe and General Secretary U Ye Htut.

Later, the Myanmar delegation visited the Tenjyosi Buddhist Temple and went sightseeing in the environs of the Arashiyama.

Next, they went to the Kinkaku-Ji Pagoda and observed the religious structure.

Deputy Speaker of the Japanese Upper House Mr Otsuji called on Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at the State Guest House in Tokyo at 5.30 pm. They had a discussion on further strengthening friendship between Myanmar and Japan Hluttaws and exchanged views on matters of the two Hluttaws. In the late evening, Deputy Speaker Mr Otsuji hosted a dinner to the Myanmar delegation at the state Guest House. —MNA

Lituary talks given in Singaing

SINGAING, 12 May—Under the arrangement of Singaing Township Administrator Office, a literary talks was held at the Dhammayon of Ayondaw literary talks was held at the meeting hall of Singaing Township on 6 May afternoon.

Writer Chit Naing

DISTRICT NEWS

UNIFORMS PROVIDED: A ceremony to present uniforms to staff of Yangon East District Administrative Office was held at the meeting hall of the General Administration Department on 4 May. Deputy Commissioner U Hlaing Soe Thant presents uniforms worth K 451,500 to staff members.—MYANNA ALIN

Written exam result for NPE junior reporter posts announced

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information has today announced the 30 roll numbers that passed the 30 March written exam for vacant Junior Reporter (Salary Scale K 59000-100000) posts.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Nyan Hlaing read the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein for the Workers’ Day. —Myanma Alin

Mudon forms Traditional Artistes and Artisans Association

MUDON, 12 May—Myanmar Traditional Artistes and Artisans Association (Central) formed the Mudon Township Traditional Artistes and Artisans Association at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Mudon on 3 May morning.

Township Administrator U Khin Maung Than made a speech. Chairman of the Association (Central) U Maung Maung Hla Maing explained matters related to the association, election of new executives and future tasks.

Secretary of the association (Central) U Ni Po Oo explained uplift of life of the association members, establishment of libraries for enhancement of their professions, participations of artisans in the association.

Myanma Alin
JPMorgan $2 billion loss hits shares, credit, image

NEW YORK/LONDON, 12 May—JPMorgan Chase & Co lost $15 billion in market value and a notch in its credit ratings on Friday while a chorus of regulators and politicians reacted to its surprise $2 billion trading loss by demanding stiffer oversight for the banking industry.

The loss by one of Wall Street’s most respected banks embarrassed chief executive Jamie Dimon, a leader lauded for steering his bank through the fallout from the 2008 financial crisis, and raised fears about the trading loss. “We know we were sloppy. We know we were stupid. We know there was bad judgment,” Dimon said in an interview about the trading loss.

On Friday, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Mary Schapiro told reporters, “It’s safe to say that all the regulators are focused on this.” The debacle sparked new fears about big banks and the moral hazard in Liuzhou City, south China’s Guangxi region, a man carries a matting at temporary shelter after a geologic hazard on 11 May, 2012.—Xinhua

Cuba to invest 450 m USD to promote rice production

Havana, 12 May—Cuba plans to invest 450 million US dollars to raise rice production, a major grain on the island, an official from the Ministry of Agriculture said on Friday. Lazaro Diaz, general director of the state-run Agro industrial Grain Group under the Ministry, said that 108 million dollars of the investment programme had already been raised with the aim of modernizing the agricultural machinery. He said the investment programme was based on the support and advice of experts and technicians from Cuba, Europe, Japan and China and was aimed at gradually reducing rice imports.

Cuba spends about 2 billion dollars every year in importing food. The Cuban authorities have realized the importance of raising the national rice production to meet the domestic demands. Since taking office in 2008, Cuban leader Raul Castro has repeatedly warned that the country, suffering a serious economic crisis, cannot afford the expensive imported food. The Cuban government has adopted several measures to promote food production, including the delivery of over a million hectares of idle lands to farmers and the granting of bank loans for farmers to buy agricultural machinery. Xinhua

Ashdown hopes new talks to end Iran nuke programme

EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton talks during an interview at the newly opened European Union Office at Yangon on 28 April, 2012.—Reuters

Brussels, 12 May—The European Union’s foreign policy chief said on Friday she hoped upcoming talks with Iran would form the basis for Tehran to eventually abandon its alleged nuclear weapons project.

Speaking ahead of talks scheduled for 23 May in Baghdad, Catherine Ashton—who has been representing the major powers at talks about Iran’s nuclear activity—said she had high hopes for the new round of negotiations. “My ambition is that we come away with the beginning of a set of discussions that can lead to concrete results”, Ashton said.

The West suspects Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons, but Iran says its programme is purely for peaceful purposes such as power production. Negotiations over its alleged military programme resumed in Turkey in April after a 15-month hiatus, and are due to resume on 23 May in Baghdad.

Ashton said she would approach the talks as a “serious set of discussions that can lead to concrete results”. Iran has said it wants sanctions introduced by the United States and the EU to dissuade it from pushing ahead with its nuclear ambitions to be scaled back. But Western diplomats say Iran must first take concrete steps to meet their concerns. The sanctions have targeted Iran’s energy and banking sectors since the beginning of this year, and the EU is preparing for a total embargo on the purchase of Iranian crude oil in July.—Reuters

Britons get gloomier — long, hard revival to come

London, 13 May—Britons turned gloomier last month as a slump in construction pointed to an even deeper recession and producers ramped up prices, highlighting the long and difficult road back to economic health.

The economy has not fully recovered from the downturn caused by the 2007-2009 financial crisis, with many Britons left poorer as meagre wage growth has been eaten up by rising prices and government tax hikes. Central bankers and politicians have only limited options to support the economy.

The Bank of England decided on Thursday not to give the struggling economy another cash boost, as its concerns over stubbornly high inflation outweighed worries of a prolonged recession and dangers from the euro zone crisis. Nor can consumers and businesses rely on much help from the government, after Prime Minister David Cameron reaffirmed his commitment to cutting a huge budget deficit, defying criticism over a lack of bold steps to kick-start growth.

Consumer morale worsened last month as Britons became more worried about jobs, lender Nationwide said on Friday.

Office rental signs hang on balconies of blocks in central Barcelona on 11 May, 2012. Spain on Friday ordered its banks to significantly increase funds set aside against mounting losses from toxic real estate lending and pledged limited government aid for weaker lenders in the form of high-interest loans.—Reuters

Lack of new cash disappoints in Spain bank reform

Madrid, 12 May—Spain’s government tried to plug a gaping hole in the country’s banking system on Friday, but the fourth such attempt to tackle the fallout from a property crash fell short of expectations.

The centre-right government offered high-interest loans to banks in the brink in which the banks are bracing for an extended and ordered an independent audit of lending across the entire banking sector, as the European Union had asked. “This is not the definitive clean-up framework that the market was clamouring for,” said Nicholas Spiro from Spiro Sovereign Strategy. “Spanish bank restructuring is a moving target: the deeper the economic downturn, the greater the uncertainty about the size of the sector’s provisioning needs.”

Spain’s troubled banks, with more than 184 billion euros ($238 billion) in problem loans and assets after the property bubble burst four years ago, lie at the core of the euro zone debt crisis due to fears that a massive rescue could push Spanish public finances to breaking point. The immediate market reaction to Friday’s government announcement was negative. But later the gap between yields on Spanish and German benchmark government bonds—a measure of how risky investors judge lending to Spain to be—narrowed somewhat to 450 basis points and Spanish bluechip shares moderated their fall to 0.76 percent.

Banks have until the end of the year to move their holdings of repossessed property into asset management firms for a fire sale, Economy Minister Luis de Guindos told a news conference. All banks must do this, he said. A Spanish government source, however, said banks able to cover by themselves losses on toxic property assets will not be forced to remove them from their books while it will be compulsory for those receiving public help.— Reuters

China, Switzerland make further progress in FTA talks

Beijing, 12 May—China and Switzerland have made “great progress” in the fifth round of bilateral talks on a possible Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Ministry of Commerce said Friday.

During the 5-10 May talk, the two countries exchanged views on topics of tax cuts, service trade, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical trade barriers and intellectual property rights, reaching a series of agreements on the issues, the ministry said.

China and Switzerland formally launched bilateral FTA talks in January, with the aim of promoting economic development and closer ties between the two countries. Trade between the two countries totalled 30.9 billion US dollars in 2011, up 54 percent from a year earlier. —Xinhua

The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 13 May, 2012

11

MG6 car sits on the production line at the MG Longbridge factory in Birmingham, central England on 13 April, 2011.—Reuters

Britain’s manufacturers raised prices more than expected in April despite lower input costs, official data showed, increasing the risk that consumer price inflation may not fall as fast as the central bank hopes.—Reuters

Germany, 2012—Spanish troubled banks, with more than 184 billion euros ($238 billion) in problem loans and assets after the property bubble burst four years ago, lie at the core of the euro zone debt crisis due to fears that a massive rescue could push Spanish public finances to breaking point. The immediate market reaction to Friday’s government announcement was negative. But later the gap between yields on Spanish and German benchmark government bonds—a measure of how risky investors judge lending to Spain to be—narrowed somewhat to 450 basis points and Spanish bluechip shares moderated their fall to 0.76 percent.

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China says inflation eases slightly in April

SHANGHAI, 12 May—China said on Friday that inflation slowed in April, easing worries of resurgent prices and giving room to loosen monetary policy to boost slowing growth in the world’s second-largest economy. The country’s consumer price index (CPI) rose by 3.4 percent per year in April compared with 3.6 percent in March, the National Bureau of Statistics said, a slowdown analysts said was driven by moderating food prices.

China’s inflation rate eased to 3.2 percent in April from 3.5 percent in March, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, as food prices increased by 7.7 percent while non-food prices rose by 2.1 percent. The core CPI, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, fell to 2.4 percent from 2.5 percent in March.

The data were lower than expectations, which had forecast a 3.3 percent increase in CPI and a 2.4 percent rise in core CPI. Economists had been bracing for a slight easing in inflation as China’s economic growth slows and food prices moderate.

The central bank has already lowered interest rates and reserve requirements in recent months to support growth, and economists expect further easing in the near term to support the economy.

“While the data were better than expected, inflation continues to pose a risk to policymakers who are aiming to support the economy without triggering inflationary pressures,” said economist Tom Cheung at ANZ Securities.

Inflation is expected to remain above the 3 percent target set by the central bank, and the government has said it will take steps to keep it in check.

Women shop for fruit at a stall in Shanghai on 11 May, 2012. China said Friday that inflation slowed in April, easing worries of resurgent prices and giving room to loosen monetary policy to boost slowing growth in the world’s second-largest economy. —INTERNET

Germany approves expansion of EU anti-piracy mission

BERLIN, 12 May—The German parliament on Thursday gave final approval to an expansion of the European Union’s anti-piracy operation off the Horn of Africa to include targeting equipment stored on Somali beaches.

Lawmakers gave the green light to the expanded mission, with a majority from the ruling centrist-right coalition parties carrying the vote against strong resistance from the opposition Social Democrats and the Greens after a heated debate.

The EU’s Operation Atalanta has deployed between five and 10 warships of the Somali coast since 2008 to escort humanitarian aid shipments and thwart pirate raids on commercial vessels using vital shipping lanes. EU foreign ministers in March agreed to extend the mission until December 2014 and expand “the force’s area of operations to include Somali coastal territory as well as its territorial and internal waters”.

Warooships or helicopters would be permitted to fire at fuel barrels, boats, trucks or other equipment stored away on beaches.

The German mandate, which runs until May, 2013, limits such strikes to an area two kilometres (1.2 miles) in from the coastline and says German troops will only be permitted to go on land in cases of emergency.

Opposition parties voted against the bill, saying it amounted to irresponsible overreach for German forces.

The German parliament on Thursday gave final approval to an expansion of the European Union’s anti-piracy operation off the Horn of Africa to include targeting equipment stored on Somali beaches. —INTERNET

1,500 children in Nigeria village suffer lead-poisoning

BOSTON, 12 May—A flight from Portland, Maine, to Philadelphia made an emergency landing at Boston’s Logan International Airport on Thursday after a male passenger allegedly opened a door to the cabin, authorities said.

Logan spokesman Phil Orlandella said there were “reports of an unruly male passenger” on Air Wisconsin Flight 3801, who was currently charged with interfering with a flight crew. —Reuters

An employee of the French non-governmental Organization Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Border - MSF) gives medicine to a child suffering from lead poisoning in 2010. International medical aid group Doctors Without Borders said on Thursday that 1,500 children in a mining village in northwest Nigeria have suffered lead-poisoning and are not receiving care.

“The expertise that is here today has shown that it is possible to do the medical treatment. It is possible to do the environmental remediation and it is possible to do safer mining,” said Gayton, a Canadian. “We need not die in search of livelihood. It can be done safely.” Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a statement that lead poisoning in Zamfara was one of the “worst such crises in modern history.” The deaths, affecting children who work in artisanal gold mines and those living in surrounding communities, arose from an unusually high concentration of lead in the region’s soil.

The flight diverted, unruly passenger restrained

A flight diverted, unruly passenger restrained in flight from Portland, Maine, to Philadelphia made an emergency landing at Boston’s Logan International Airport on Thursday after a male passenger allegedly opened a door to the cabin, authorities said.

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Frigate “Luebeck” returns from its “Atalanta” mission at the Horn of Africa in April 2012. —INTERNET

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Alligator rams kayak, knocks dog in water

A Florida man out kayaking on a lake said an alligator rammed his boat and hit him in the arm, sending his girlfriend’s dog plunging into the water. Thomas Swiader said he and the Yorkie, Buffy, were on Triple Lake in Casselberry with a line in the water last Wednesday when the alligator rammed the boat, “wacked” him in the arm and sent the small dog splashing into the lake, WFTV, Orlando, Fla, reported.

“I looked over and she was swimming in the water, so just immediately I grabbed the leash, pulled her back to me and threw her in the kayak and at that time she was pretty frightened,” Swiader said.

Swiader said the dog was not injured.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officials said the alligator may have been aggressive because it is mating season.

Resident startled by Army drill

A US Army spokesman said the sounds of helicopters and explosions coming from a Miami hotel were part of an urban training exercise.

Residents of the Coconut Grove neighbour- hood reported being awakened by the sound of helicopters around 1:45 am and seeing soldiers rappelling down from the vehicles to the Grand Bay Hotel.

Maj Michael Burns, a US Army spokesman, said the “realistic urban training” exercise was organized by the US Special Operations Command and involved about 100 military personnel, three military helicopters and simulated gunfire and explosions.

“They have to train in a realistic environment,” Burns said. “We didn’t use any real bullets.”

Burns said Miami police helped oversee the exercise to ensure the safety of the public.

Woman surprised by lotto ticket ruling

A Florida woman said she and her husband are both unemployed and have already spent $190,000 of the prize money. She said they would not be able to immediately repay the money.

“There’s no way that I can do it now,” she said, “but I’d have to, I guess, if it came down to it.”

An attorney representing Duncan and the convenience store declined to comment, NBC said.

Stevie Wonder’s alleged extortionists arrested

Two people, who tried to extort money from singer Stevie Wonder, have been arrested in the United States. According to officials in Los Angeles, Alpha Lorenzo and Tameria Eileen Diz threatened to reveal “embarrassing information” about the star.

Aniston to be single again?

Los Angeles, 12 May—Actress Jennifer Aniston’s boyfriend Justin Theroux is said to be keen to move on.

The 30-year-old had hit the headlines earlier this month when he joked that the 42-year-old Aniston’s charm, sexiness and power, he now feels they aren’t compatible. The bloom is off the rose. He wants his old home, his old love Heidi Bivens and his old life back, usmagazine.com quoted a source as saying.

“Justin and Heidi still talk, and they are very supportive of each other. Justin feels she’s handled herself with grace, never becoming nasty or vindictive though it was a total shock when he began seeing Aniston behind her back while they were still living together,” the source added.

“Justin is full of remorse and regret which he has told Heidi. Justin wants a family. But he doesn’t want it with Aniston,” the source said.

Grammy award winner Adele

Adele isn’t fame hungry

Los Angeles, 12 May—Grammy award winner Adele says she doesn’t crave for fame.

The 24-year-old, who was named as a single mom by London’s working-class Tottenham neighbourhood, admits she is not interested in taking part in any of the hoopla accompanying her success.

“I don’t want to be a celebrity...I don’t want to be in people’s faces,” usmagazine.com quoted her as saying.

Serena Williams’ rap track surfaces online

Washington, 12 May—It seems that tennis champ Serena Williams is ready to take a shot at the world of hip-hop music.

The 30-year-old had hit Baltimore Ravens lineman Bryant McKinnie’s studio in Florida to record some songs last year and TMZ.com has revealed a minute-long sample, doing the rounds on Internet Friday.

It turns out that the former No 1 player can handle a bass line as well as she can a racket. I can’t see these hatters through my Gucci glasses I make hits like battering practice-they be like Serena, is you really rapping? That’s me, thanks for listening,” she sings in the track.

“Schooling these rappers, they should pay tuition.”

“I put the track up like a frozen pizza. Beats so crazy it might blow your speakers,” she raps. She even gives her sister Venus a little shoutout.
Bayern out to down Dortmund as Chelsea loom

THONDEBEKK, 12 May—Bayern Munich are about to break their losing streak to German champions Borussia Dortmund in Saturday's domestic cup final as their Champions League showdown with Chelsea looms.

Dortmund have beaten Bayern both home and away for the last two seasons on their way to claiming back-to-back league titles and Borussia are bidding to win the league and cup double for the first time in their 103-year history.

The last of Dortmund's two previous German cup wins was back in 1988, while Bayern come to Berlin's Olympic Stadium chasing their 16th cup title.

The Bavarians host the Champions League final against Chelsea at their own Allianz Arena stadium on Saturday 19 May and while they can be forgiven for being distracted, goalkeeper Manuel Neuer insists all eyes are on Berlin.

"All we're thinking about is this final. We've forgotten the other matches," he insisted. "Obviously there have been a lot of reports about the Champions League final, but everyone now how enjoyed we were in chelngladbach when we made it to the cup final. "We're fired up for Players Championship win the trophy." Neuer played key role in the cup semi-final victory at Glagbach in March with a crucial save in the penalty shoot-out and is determined to host the golden trophy again having crashed Schalke to their 2011 cup victory.

Lifting the German cup would also be a perfect foundation for the Champions League final the week after says Germany's first-choice goalkeeper. "We've had a good season as a team, but it will only be a superb season if we win trophies," said Neuer.

Chelsea pushing defensive pair hard to be fit for final

LONDON, 12 May—Chelsea are still sweating on the fitness of central defenders David Luiz and Gary Cahill for next week's Champions League final against Bayern Munich.

Both players have been sidelined by hamstring injuries in recent weeks and while they are certain to finish sixth in the Premier League, they will take the chance to shuffle their pack of players against Blackbum.

"My team selection is going to be mix, one or two youngsters and some of the other guys that need a game," said Di Matteo. "We have to find a balance. There are also going to be players in the team who are going to be involved next Saturday," he added.

MCCLOY misses Players cut, Tiger survives

PONTEVEDRA, Beach, 12 May—World number one Rory McIlroy missed the cut at the Players Championship after shooting a four-over-par 76 in Friday's second round which ended with a trio of Americans sharing the lead.

Jack Johnson, Kevin Na and Matt Kuchar were all the trio on 13, 3-over-par 74, with a shot clear of compatriot Harris English. But with five players sitting a further stroke adrift and the course likely to get tougher over the weekend, the event widely known as golf's unofficial fifth major remains wide open.

One player who will not be able to make a move on Saturday is McIlroy, who has had a miserable record at the TJC Sawgrass course where he also missed the cut in his previous two appearances at the venue before skipping the event last year.

The Northern Irishman, who had not missed a cut since last year's Wells Fargo Championship, carded five bogeys and one birdie on Friday for a two-day total of 148. "There is something about this place I just can't get to grips with," McIlroy told reporters. "I just need to try and get the hang of this golf course somehow, it's just a bit of one those weeks." Internet

End of an era at AC Milan as veterans move on

MILAN, 12 May—Filippo Inzaghi,ennaro Gattuso and Alessandro Nesta will end their AC Milan careers against Novara on Sunday as the end of an era is all but completed at the San Siro.

Inzaghi is particularly loved because he scored a brace in that final in Athens as Milan defeated Liverpool 2-1 to avenge their penalty shoot-out defeat by the same opponents two years before. Already, there was a feeling that the side were coming to the end of their powers but certain figures held on.

That is no longer the case, though, with Inzaghi, 38, set for retirement, Nesta, 36, heading probably to the United States, and Gattuso, 34, facing an uncertain future.

Club captain Ambrosini, 34, is staying on for another year but the fate of 36-year-old Seedorf has yet to be confirmed. It’s the departure of iconic figure Inzaghi that will truly drive home the reality that the famous Milan teams but all good things must come to an end.

Ally the likes of defenders Caša and Paolo Maldini, as well as coach Carlo Ancelotti, had gone, while Andrea Pirlo led last summer.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Phelps fails to home to hero at Charlotte UltraSwim

SYDNEY, 12 May—Michael Phelps outsprinted Ryan Lochte in the 200-meter freestyle at the Charlotte UltraSwim but both US favourites for the London Olympics lost out to hometown hero Ricky Berens, 27.

Bereens won in 1:45.32 with Phelps second in 1:45.36 and Lochte sixth in 1:49.07 in a sign that each swimmer was on a different training schedule ahead of the Olympics and the US Olympic trials next month at Omaha, Nebraska.

"We're all going through different training," Phelps said. "That's how (Lochte) has always done it. I'm sure that's why he's going to do this year. He's somebody who's a very tough racer and at the right time, he'll be there when it counts." Lochte wore older-style briefs rather than a more modern competition suit such as the one used by Phelps, whose only other event at Charlotte will be the 200-butterfly.

"None of this is going to matter," said Lochte's coach, Gregg Troy. "Noone is going to care what happened in Charlotte in another month and a half." Lochte will return to training in Florida next week, while Phelps spends much of his time in Colorado in high-altitude training and fitness conditioning.

Berbatov ‘seeking club outside England’

MANCHESTER, United, 12 May—Manchester United’s Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov will be seeking to join a team outside England when he leaves Old Trafford at the end of the season, his agent Emil Danchev says.

The website predicted a possible return to Germany, where Berbatov played for Bayer Leverkusen, with top clubs such as Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund reportedly expressing interest in the former Bulgarian international.

India’s Viswanathan Anand takes on Israel’s Boris Gelfand for the last world chess crown to be decided in Moscow since intrigue and politics rocked the sport at the height of the Cold War, Russia is hosting the epic 12-match series at the State Historical Gallery.

International Sports
United’s Hernandez picked for Mexico World Cup qualifiers

MEXICO CITY, 12 May—Mexico striker Javier Hernandez is among eight foreign-based players called up for Friday’s friendly against Guyana in England. Hernandez’s inclusion comes two days after Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson refused permission for ‘Chicharito’ to play at the London Olympics which starts in July.

Ferguson said Hernandez needed a rest before starting pre-season training for the 2012/13 Premier League campaign having not had a proper holiday for three years. Mexico host Guyana on Sunday, four days later in the third phase of the Concacaf qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil. Costa Rica make up Group B.

Hernandez needed a rest to play at the London Olympics, Ferguson said. United’s Hernandez celebrates his goal against Bolton Wanderers during their English Premier League soccer match in Bolton, England on 10 September, 2011.

Azarenka to meet Serena in Madrid Open final

MADRID, 12 May—Victoria Azarenka and Serena Williams will square off for the Madrid Open title after the current and former world number ones swept into the final with a minimum of fuss on Saturday.

Australian Open champion Azarenka took a step closer to a fifth title of 2012 when she dispatched Agnieszka Radwanska 6-2, 6-4, before Williams, seeded ninth at the premier event in the Spanish capital, crushed Czech qualifier Lucie Hradecka 7-6(4)-0.

Belarussian Azarenka has now beaten third-ranked Pole Radwanska six times in six meetings this year and rarely looked troubled as she sought to improve on her runners-up finish last year to Petra Kvitova. She battered 29 winners on the blue clay to a fifth title of 2012 when she dispatched Agnieszka Radwanska 6-2, 6-4, before Williams, seeded ninth at the premier event in the Spanish capital, crushed Czech qualifier Lucie Hradecka 7-6(4)-0.

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NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint left Kyoto at 9:30 am and arrived at Tokyo at 11:50 am on 8 May by Nozomi Bullet Train. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker met former Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tajima at Hotel New Otani at 2 pm. The delegation called on Speaker of House of Councillors of Japan Mr Hirata Kenji at the upper house at 3 pm. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker explained that Myanmar has Pyidaungsu Hluttaw which is the combination of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and is made up of representatives from various national races, religions and political parties and independent ones. Despite less parliamentary democratic experiences, Myanmar Hluttaw could keep abreast of well-established parliaments of other countries in discharging duties, he said. He then frankly discussed matters related to strengthening mutual relations between the two parliaments and shared parliamentary experiences.

The speaker and party observed the Hall of the Upper House of Japan. The delegation met Speaker of House of Representatives of Japan Mr Yokomichi at the lower house at 4 pm and discussed matters related to flourishing of democracy in accord with the constitution in Myanmar and parliamentary affairs.

National Diet in Japan was formed by 245 lawmakers of the upper house and 480 lawmakers of the lower house. The candidate for the upper house must be at least 30 years old and its term is six years. The candidate for the lower house must be at least 25 years old and its term is four years. Mr Hirata Kenji hosted dinner to Myanmar delegation at his residence.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—A goodwill delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint comprised Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Education, Health and Culture Committee Dr Khin Shwe, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw ASEAN Social and Cultural Community Committee U Win Maung, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Mines and Natural Resources Committee U Nay Win Tun and officials, arrived at the Hanoi International Airport of Vietnam at 9.30 pm local standard time on 5 May. The delegation left Yangon late in the evening under Japan–Myanmar parliamentary relations programme.

The delegation was welcomed by Vice-Chairman of International Relations Committee of Vietnamese National Assembly Mr Ha Huy Thong and Deputy Director of International Relations Department Mr Pham Hoan Hoi, Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam U Thet Oo, Military Attaché Col Win Hlaing and officials.

The delegation exchanged views on intra-parliamentary affairs at lounge of the airport. The delegation arrived at Kansai International Airport of Osaka of Japan at 6.40 am the next day.

The speaker and party were welcomed by Director-General of Upper House of Japan Mt Hanatani and officials and Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin and officials.

(See page 9)