Established 1914

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Tuesday, 15 May, 2012

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.

President U Thein Sein welcomes ROK President Mr Lee Myung-bak

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein extended a welcome to President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak who arrived here to pay a goodwill visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the invitation of President U Thein Sein.

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May – President U Thein Sein met a goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 5.20 pm today.

Present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Korea U Nyunt Hlaing and heads of department. Together with the President of ROK were Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr Kim Sung-Hwan, Minister of Knowledge Economy Mr Hong Suk Woo and Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae-yong and high-ranking officials.

Both sides discussed matters related to strengthening of bilateral friendship, official development assistance from the ROK, funds for economic development and cooperation, multi-sectoral cooperation between the two countries, extension of economic investment and other regional issues.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall
(14-5-2012)

Kyaikmaraw (4.70) inches
Paung  (3.86) inches
Mawlamyine (1.89) inches
Thaton  (1.14) inches
Kayan  (1.06) inches

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shakes hands with President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA
Never ending task

Although, the government is in office for only over a year, it is making great strides in carrying out necessary reforms with might and main for practicing democracy correctly in all sectors and in every corner of the country. It is taking measures that will help every government organization carry out effective reforms fulfilling the basic needs of the people, generating job opportunities, ensuring greater occupational safety, improving education and health sectors, creating business and investment friendly environment, establishing industrial estates and deep-seasports which in fact are like tonic for our nation in transition process.

Here, co-operative efforts are what we all need for extending agricultural and livestock breeding businesses and industries and developing health, education and human resources with improvement of people’s living conditions as the end result.

In this context, we must form a body that acts as middleman or in other words socio-economy advisory council in facilitating cooperation and coordination among social and economic organizations and private sector which in combination can give valuable suggestions to the government and organize active public participation in the reform process.

In conducting reforms, we need to improve the morality and attitude of ward/village administrators and township administrators in performing their administrative duties so that they can avoid bribery and corruption, and provide better and hospitable services.

Some people may say our reforms are slow. Truly, we are trying our best in conducting reforms based on the country’s objective conditions. In fact, reform is a never ending task. It continues depending on changing public attitude, maturity of all stakeholders and international trend. The government has already committed itself to democracy through ongoing reforms and there is no U-turn.
Coach-truck collision leaves four dead, 36 injured in north China

HOHHOT, 14 May—At least four people were confirmed dead and 36 others were injured after a coach collided with a truck in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region—Xinhua

Photo taken on 14 May, 2012 shows the accident site after a coach collided with a truck in Ulanqab City, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region—Xinhua

As foreign troops leave, Afghan refugees and poverty increase

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, 14 May—Gulam recalls the evening she fled her home in northern Afghanistan on foot, running with her teen daughters under the cloak of darkness to avoid cooking a dinner for 20 Taliban militants. “This Taleb burst through my door and demanded I cook for them. But I had no money, and I was scared they would take my daughters,” Gulam said, pulling a stripy shawl tightly around her gaunt and wrinkled face.

That night six months ago, Gulam and her family joined the half a million Afghans who are internally displaced, mostly from conflict but also natural disasters, a number which has been steadily increasing since 2008.

Intensifying violence as NATO combat troops prepare to leave by end-2014 and a poor economic outlook in the face of shrinking aid could spell a humanitarian disaster for Afghanistan, where a third already live beneath the poverty line.

“Security in the country is terrible. Day by day there are more of us,” Gulam told Reuters while visiting the UN compound in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh Province.

She left her mountainous village for a district on Afghanistan’s border with Uzbekistan, where she now lives in rented accommodation. Unable to find work, the widow receives meagerly handouts from male relatives. She says her husband was killed in an insurgent attack.—Reuters

Fourty-nine headless corpses found in northern Mexico

CADERERA JIMENEZ, 14 May—Suspected drug cartel killers in Mexico dumped 49 headless bodies on a highway near the northern city of Monterrey, a sickening atrocity that prompted the government to condemn the “inhuman” violence plaguing the country.

The corpses of 43 men and six women, whose hands and feet had also been cut off, were found in a pile on a highway in the municipality of Cadereyta. Jimenez early on Sunday, officials from the state of Nuevo Leon said.

“When I saw the bodies I was shocked,” Ulises Paulino, a driver from the city and rescuers had to use boats to evacuate people.

Residents look at shoes of missing people that have been arranged to form the number forty-nine, in memory of the mutilated victims dumped by hitmen in Cadereyta, at the Macroplaza in Monterrey on 13 May, 2012.—Reuters

Leader of Democratic Left party Fotiis Kouvelis (2nd L) arrives for a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Athens on 13 May, 2012. —REUTERS

Greek elections loom after leftist rejects coalition talks

ATHENS, 14 May—Greek radical leftist leader spurned an invitation from the president for a final round of coalition talks on Monday, all but ensuring a new election that he is poised to win.

Greece’s political landscape has been in disarray for a week since an inconclusive election left parliament divided between supporters and opponents of the 130 billion (EU/IMF bailout, with neither side able to form a government.

Government officials have warned that Greece could run out of cash as early as the end of June if it does not have a government in place to negotiate the next aid tranche with its lenders.

“The country is up in the air,” financial daily Imerisia wrote on its front page, warning in an editorial: “The country is up in the air,” financial daily Imerisia wrote on its front page, warning in an editorial: “The country is up in the air,” financial daily Imerisia wrote on its front page, warning in an editorial: “The country is up in the air,” financial daily Imerisia wrote on its front page, warning in an editorial: “The country is up in the air,” financial daily Imerisia wrote on its front page, warning in an editorial: “The country is up in the air,” financial daily Imerisia wrote on its front page, warning in an editorial: “The country is up in the air,”

As foreign troops leave, Afghan refugees and poverty increase

Athens on 13 May, 2012. —REUTERS

Iran says pressures may damage nuclear talks

DUBAI, 14 May—Iran warned Western powers on Sunday that applying pressure on Tehran could jeopardize talks on its nuclear programme, state television reported.

“The era of a pressure strategy is ended. Any strategic miscalculations would endanger success at the Baghdad negotiations,” said Saeed Jalili, Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator, quoted by state television.

Jalili was speaking with French former Prime Minister Michel Rocard who visited Iran ahead of the 23 May in Baghdad with the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany. Jalili called on Western officials to avoid “unconstructive remarks” ahead of the talks, the television said, without elaborating.

Catherine Ashton, the European Union’s foreign policy chief, said on Friday she hoped the talks would form the basis for Iran to eventually abandon its “nuclear weapons programme”.

The West suspects Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. Tehran says its programme is purely for peaceful purposes such as power generation. Ashton’s use of the term “nuclear weapons programme” went beyond the language commonly used by Western officials, who usually describe Iran’s efforts as an attempt to move towards a nuclear weapons capability.

In January, US Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said Iran was keeping open the option to develop nuclear weapons, in part by developing various nuclear capabilities. But he said he did not know whether Iran would eventually decide to build nuclear weapons.

Fourty-nine headless corpses found in northern Mexico

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The corpses of 43 men and six women, whose hands and feet had also been cut off, were found in a pile on a highway in the municipality of Cadereyta. Jimenez early on Sunday, officials from the state of Nuevo Leon said.

The Nuevo Leon government said the notorious Zetas drug gang had claimed responsibility for the bloodshed, one of the worst to hit Mexico during its struggle against the powerful cartels.

The massacre follows several other mass slayings in Mexico. Many have occurred in the north, where the Zetas have waged a war against rival groups for control of smuggling routes into the United States, the biggest market for illicit drugs.

The Mexican government said in a statement the evidence suggested turf wars between the Zetas and the Sinaloa cartel of Joaquin “Shorty” Guzman were behind the surge in bloodshed.

Condemning the “inhuman episodes of irrational violence” the warring gangs had caused, the government pledged to uphold justice in Mexico with “all of its force and might.”

Athens on 13 May, 2012. —REUTERS

Five killed in flash flood in Georgian capital

Tbilisi, 14 May—An overnight flash flood caused by a downpour drowned five people including two children early on Sunday in the capital city of Georgia. According to the emergency service and rescuers of the municipality, the flash-flood occurred around the Ortchel district in the city and rescuers had to use boats to evacuate people.

Several others were sent to hospitals where they had been receiving treatment for injuries. Rescuers also reported property damages to houses because of mudslides triggered by the flash-flood.

Tbilisi Mayor Gigi Ugulava said, “The (Tbilisi) City Hall has created special commissions to check upon the flood damage while rescuers and municipal emergency service have been working overnight to clean the flooded district and to restore roads.”

“By nine (o’clock) this morning (Sunday) the situation had been brought to normal,” said Ugulava.

Xinhua

Residents look at shoes of missing people that have been arranged to form the number forty-nine, in memory of the mutilated victims dumped by hitmen in Cadereyta, at the Macroplaza in Monterrey on 13 May, 2012.—Reuters

Fifty killed in flash flood in Georgian capital

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Xinhua
Canon seeks full automation in camera production

**Science & Technology**

Canon is now being developed.

30 miles west of Orlando, shut

in comparatively recent

migrant worker camp.

There is one clue that

showed the burial occurred

in comparatively recent

times—pieces of newspaper
dated 16 March, 1978, the

Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

reported.

“This is definitely a

secondary burial site,” said

Dr. Jan Garavaglia, medical

examiner for Orange and

Osceola counties.

The migrant worker
camp is in Winter Garden, about

30 miles west of Orlando, shut

down in the 1980s and the

area is now being developed.

As swimming pool contractor

found the skulls and artifacts.

John Schultz, an anthropologist at the University of Central Florida, said the skulls are typical of Inca remains from Peru. A wooden vessel, carrying bag and sting and pieces of pottery found with the bones appear to be from the Chancay culture of Peru, which flourished for more than 200 years before 1470 AD.

Trading in archaeological

finds has been illegal under a UNESCO convention since 1970. Before that, tourists could often buy them in local markets, although many countries had laws protecting antiquities.

Another possibility is that

the remains were brought to Florida by migrant workers, possibly for use in religious rituals.

**Ancient Peruvian find turns up in Florida**

**Orlando, 14 May**—Experts are trying to determine how two ancient skulls and centuries-old Peruvian artifacts came to be buried in a former Florida migrant worker camp.

If successful, counting on machines can help preserve this nation’s technological power — not the stereotype of machines snatching assembly line jobs from workers, Jun Misumi — company spokesman, said on Monday.

The move toward machine-only production will likely be completed in the next few years, perhaps as soon as 2015, said Misumi, although he declined to give specific dates.

Japanese manufacturers have been moving production abroad recently to offset the earnings damage from the soaring yen.

And fears are growing about a hollowing-out of Japan Inc as jobs move to China, India and the rest of Asia, where labour costs are cheaper.

Misumi was adamant that jobs won’t be cut at Canon.

“When machines become more sophisticated, human beings can be transferred to do new kinds of work,” he said.

Since the late 1990s, other manufacturers, Canon began using the “cell” production method, in which a team of workers or one worker puts together a major part, rather than doing a simple task over and over.

In recent years, plants have become so much a part of this cell production, Canon calls it “man-machine cell.”

Eventually, human involvement will be phased out in making some products, according to Canon.

In the US, Amazon.com Inc is buying Kiva Systems, which makes robots and software to help companies fulfill orders, for $775 million.

Amazon has been using automation at its order fulfillment centres for some time. But Kiva’s technology is designed to lower costs and will be used to help workers pick and pack books.

Sano, the academic, stressed the need for a system so workers can communicate with robots. He also stressed that there will always be room for human intelligence, using the Japanese for “craftsmanship,” or “takumi.”

“Human beings are needed to come up with innovations on how to use robots,” said Sano. “Going to a no-man operation at that level is still the world of science fiction.”

Another possibility is tracking technology has uncovered feeding habitats and threats to a mysterious

A Leica 0 series camera, number 116, is seen on a shelf in Westlicht gallery in Vienna on 11 May, 2012.

**Leica camera auctioned in Austria for record $2.8 mln**

**INTERNET**

**Vienna, 14 May**—A rare 1923 Leica went for 2.16 million euros at an auction in Vienna at the weekend, making it the most expensive camera ever sold, the auctioneer said.

An anonymous buyer won the bidding battle for the German camera, which still works and is one of around 25 test versions of Leica 0-Series cameras produced in 1923, two years before the start of serial production. Only half of them have been preserved.

Including the buyer’s premium, the price paid at the WestLicht auction on Saturday was more than seven times the starting price of 300,000 euros, WestLicht said. It did not identify the anonymous owner, who it said was a private collector in Europe.

A different Leica 0-series sold in November 2007 for 336,000 euros at auction, and then again in May 2011 for 1.22 million euros including the buyer’s premium.

**INTERNET**

The decision to step down from Yahoo was in part influenced by Thompson’s cancer diagnosis, a person told the Journal.

The diagnosis had occurred in recent days while the board was investigating why the executive’s academic record had erroneously included a computer science degree, according to the newspaper.

Thompson’s departure after just four months on the job throws into question the future of Yahoo as it struggles to revive growth amid fierce competition from the likes of Google Inc (GOOGL.O) and Facebook Inc, and produce a long-term strategy to convince investors to reverse its share slide.

Yahoo recently resumed negotiations to sell all or part of its more than 40 percent stake in Chinese Internet and e-commerce company Alibaba back to the Chinese company, after torpedoing a previous plan to do a complex tax-free transaction.

“The market is five years behind the reality,” said Yahoo’s largest shareholder, Daniel Loeb, putting him in a strong position to influence strategy at the struggling Internet company.

Loeb’s Third Point LLC is one of Yahoo’s three largest shareholders with a 5.8 percent stake.

The decision did not give a reason for Thompson’s exit but said the company’s global media head, Ross Levinsohn, will be interim CEO. It also said it had settled a proxy battle with Third Point and will nominate three of the fund’s slate of four candidates to the board, including Loeb.

Separately, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday that before resigning as chief executive of Yahoo over the weekend, Thompson disclosed to the company’s board of directors and several colleagues that he has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. The paper had sourced the report to people familiar with the matter.

**Yahoo CEO out, investor Loeb gets board seats**

**San Francisco, 14 May**—Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O) is replacing its CEO for the third time in as many years, and giving three board seats to a hedge fund led by Daniel Loeb, putting him in a strong position to influence strategy at the struggling Internet company.

Loeb’s Third Point LLC is one of Yahoo’s three largest shareholders with a 5.8 percent stake.

This is why the executive’s exit was a big victory for Yahoo over the weekend, Thompson disclosed to the company’s board of directors and several colleagues that he has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. The paper had sourced the report to people familiar with the matter.

**Scientists track manta rays by satellite**

**New York, 14 May**—US, British and Mexican researchers say satellite tracking technology has uncovered feeding habitats and threats to a mysterious

The satellite tag data revealed that some of the rays travelled more than 1,100 kilometers (680 miles) during the study period,” Matthew Witt of the University of Exeter’s Environment and Sustainability Institute said.

The research team attached satellite transmitters to six manta rays off the coast of Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula.

The satellite tag data revealed that some of the rays travelled more than 1,100 kilometers (680 miles) during the study period, the researchers said.

“Almost nothing is known about the movements and ecological needs of the manta ray, one of the ocean’s largest and least-known species,” said Rachel Graham, director of WCS’s Gulf and Caribbean Sharks and Rays Programme.

In recent years, robots have become so much a part of this cell production, Canon calls it “man-machine cell.”

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**Riskier assets hit as Euro zone worries grow**

London, 14 May—The euro hit four-month lows and shares fell on Monday as the increasing likelihood of a new election in Greece worsened the sense of crisis in the euro zone and China’s latest move to loosen monetary policy only added to investor risk aversion.

The refusal of a major leftist party to join a new government has brought the prospect of its exit from the euro zone closer. The region’s finance ministers, gathering in Brussels, also face a worsening fiscal position in Spain.

Adding to the negative tone for the high risk sector, German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservatives suffered a crushing defeat on Sunday in an election in Germany’s most populous state.

“Ailing rivals in risk assets seems the best way to make money in most asset classes given the event risk is still very real this week,” said Chris Weston, an institutional dealer at IG Markets.

**Asthma triggered by more than pollen**

Arlington Heights, 14 May—People with asthma have to watch out for more than pollen—fruit, campfires, weather changes or insect stings can all trigger attacks, US allergists warn.

Dr James Sublett, chairman of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Public Relations Committee, said by planning ahead, seeing an allergist and knowing the causes of allergy and asthma, even those with the most sensitive noses and lungs can enjoy summer fun.

“Although symptoms may not always be severe, summertime allergies and asthma are serious and, in some cases, deadly,” Sublett said in a statement.

Sublett said some surprising asthma triggers include:

— An otherwise healthy snack can mean an oral allergy syndrome for people whose lips begin to tingle after sinking their teeth into a peach, melon, apple, celerery, and other fresh fruits and vegetables.

— Sudden changes in the weather can trigger an asthma attack.

— Smoke is a common asthma trigger. Sit upwind of the smoke and avoid getting too close.

— Stinging insects. It is possible to develop a life-threatening allergic reaction to the sting of yellow jackets, honey bees, wasps, hornets and fire ants. Cover up when outdoors, avoid brightly colored clothing, forget perfume and take caution when eating or drinking anything sweet.

— Although not an allergen, the smell of chlorine from pools or hot tubs can be an irritant and cause flare-ups of either allergy-like eye and nose symptoms or asthma in some people.

**Traders work at their desks at Frankfurt’s stock exchange. — Reuters**

**Yamaha India to build new $280 mn two-wheeler plant**

New Delhi, 14 May—Yamaha Motor Co will spend $15 billion rupees over the next five years on a new two-wheeler factory in India, the Japanese automaker’s Indian unit said, as the company ramps up capacity in the world’s second-largest motorcycle market.

The new factory, to be built outside Chennai, will begin production in January 2016 with capacity of 600,000 vehicles, rising to 1.8 million vehicles by 2018, India Yamaha Motor said in a statement on Monday.

Yamaha currently has two plants in India and a total capacity of 1 million two-wheelers.

**Measles kills 12 children in Pakistan tribal area**

Miranshah, 14 May—An outbreak of measles in part of Pakistan’s lawless tribal northwest has killed 12 children in three weeks and is spreading due to a shortage of medicines, according to doctors.

Doctor Mohammad Ali Shah, chief of the main hospital in Miranshah, the biggest town in North Waziristan, told AFP that military operations, power cuts and curfews meant there was a shortage of medications.

The revivile and impoverished district bordering Afghanistan is Pakistan’s most notorious Taliban and al-Qaeda stronghold, and hit frequently by US drone strikes targeting Islamist militants.

“For the past three weeks we are daily receiving five to 10 children suffering from measles,” Shah said, adding that he would normally see only one or two deaths from the disease in a year.

“We do not have proper storage for measles vaccination because of long power outages and curfews and infants and parents played at various toy stations while listening to a version of a piano piece that stayed in key, versus a version that included out-of-key notes, while the passive listening infants did not show the same preference.”

**Risque of cash banks must hold as of 14 January, 2008, is the best way to,**

**most of our stock expires due to these reasons.**

He urged the govern- ment to send mobile vacci- nation teams to the area and warned of a possible typhoid outbreak if action was not taken promptly.

“Isolation teams have not visited the area for a long time and that is the reason for the spread of such diseases,” he said.

Measles is highly contagious and spread by a virus that is easily prevented by proper immunisation but can be fatal.

It caused nearly 140,000 deaths worldwide in 2010, according to the World Health Organization — 95 percent in low income countries with poor health infrastructure.

Another doctor, Moha- mad Nadiaj, said 12 children and a man had died from measles, and that there were up to 70 confirmed cases in hospital.

Local government offici- als were not available to comment.

**Broad-based sell-off drugs Britain’s FTSE lower**

London, 14 May—A broad-based sell-off headed by heavyweight banks and commodity stocks dragged Britain’s top share index lower on Monday, as twin fears over the euro zone crisis and the global growth outlook killed any recent underlying enthusiasm.

Talks to form a new government in Greece looked to have failed, deepening the euro zone crisis, and China cut its bank reserve requirement ratio for a third time in six months in further efforts to boost its slowing economy, undermining global growth concerns.

At 03:13 am EDT (0713 GMT), the FTSE 100 .FTSE index was down 70.92 points, or 1.3 percent at 5,504.60, just clinging on to the psychologically important 5,500 level, having rallied 0.6 percent higher on Friday. — Reuters

**Babies benefit from music lessons**

Hamilton, 14 May—One-year-old babies exposed to music lessons demonstrated better communication and more sophisticated brain responses to music, Canadian researchers say.

Laurel Trainor, director of McMaster University’s Institute for Music and the Mind in Ontario, and David Zaidel, a music educator and graduate student, said the study involved groups of babies and their parents who spent six months participating in one of two types of weekly music instruction.

All the babies had shown similar communication and social development and none had previously participated in other baby music classes.

One music class involved interactive music-making and learning a small set of lullabies, nursery rhymes and songs with actions. Parents and infants worked together to learn to play percussion instruments, take turns and sing specific songs. In the other music class, infants and parents played at various toy stations while recordings from the popular Baby Einstein series played in the background. “Babies who participated in the interactive music classes with their parents showed earlier sensitivity to the pitch structure in music,” Trainor said in a statement.

Specifically, they preferred to listen to a version of a piano piece that stayed in key, versus a version that included out-of-key notes, while the passive listening infants did not show the same preferences.”

**Health Tip: Having an allergy to medication**

If you’re allergic to a medication, you can take steps to reduce your risk of a reaction, which could be life-threatening.

The University of Michigan Health System offers these suggestions:

* Make sure you write down the names of any medications to which you are allergic.
* Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about any newly prescribed medication to be sure it is not similar to another drug to which you are allergic.
* Never share your medication with someone else or take someone else’s medication yourself.
Iraq bomb attacks against security kill five

BAGHDAD, 14 May—A series of bomb attacks mostly targeting security forces, including a suicide car bombing, killed five people across Iraq and wounded several more on Sunday, security and medical officials said.

Two people, including an Iraqi army first lieutenant, were killed when a suicide car bomber attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint in Fallujah, west of Baghdad in Sunni Anbar Province, a police captain who spoke on condition of anonymity said. He said six others, including four soldiers, were also wounded in the attack. Omar Dalli from Fallujah general hospital confirmed receiving two bodies and treating six people.

In Ramadi, the provincial capital of Anbar, a parked car bomb that detonated as a police patrol was passing wounded at least six people, including four policemen, a police major and a medic. Two people were also killed when a magnetic-sticky bomb attached to their car detonated in Iskandiriya, south of Baghdad, police said.

A medical official in Musayib, a general hospital, the nearest medical facility, confirmed the toll. In another attack, a bomb blast outside a soldier’s house in the town of Himeen, in Diyala Province, killed the soldier’s mother and left his sister wounded.

The casualties were confirmed by doctor Ahmed Ibrahim from the main hospital in Diyala’s provincial capital of Baquba.

In western Baghdad’s Mansur neighbourhood, a suicide bomber wounded four people, an official in the interior ministry said. He added that policemen shot the suicide bomber before he reached a checkpoint, but the bomber managed to blow himself up.

US, Pakistan negotiate reopening NATO supply line

WASHINGTON, 14 May—US negotiators in Pakistan have likely only receive an invitation if it ends its nearly six-month blockade of NATO supplies.

A team of US negotiators has been in the country for several weeks working out the nuts and bolts of a potential agreement to reopen supply lines, said a US official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. The Americans met with their Pakistani counterparts all day on Sunday and were scheduled to resume discussions on Monday, the official said.

Pakistan closed its Afghan border crossings to the US-led coalition at the end of November, in retaliation for American airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers at two small outposts in the northwest. The US expressed its condolences, but that wasn’t enough for Pakistan.

Pakistan’s government then threw the issue to parliament, which used the opportunity to try to renegotiate the country’s relationship with the US, a popular move in a country where anti-American sentiment is rampant despite billions of dollars in annual US aid. Passing the gauntlet to parliament was likely meant to provide the government political cover, but the lawmakers’ stark demands have made it more difficult for Pakistani officials to maneuver.

Nepal plane crash kills 15

KATHMANDU, 14 May—Fifteen passengers died on Monday when a plane carrying Indian pilgrims crashed near a treacherous high-altitude airport in northern Nepal, where six made a miraculous escape, police said.

The plane crashed into a hill close to Jomsom near the Annapurna mountain range, police spokesman Bhusal Singh told AFP. “The plane was going to touristic skies and there was a narrow gap and the hill was shrouded in a thin cloud,” he said.

Two people also died when a helicopter crashed into a hill, killing a flight attendant and a passenger. The passengers were en route to the Annapurna region to visit Mount Thorong La Himalayan mountain pass, said Rajendra Singh Bhandari, Nepal police regional spokesman.

Two people were also killed when a magnetic-sticky bomb attached to their car detonated in Iskandiriya, south of Baghdad, police said.

A medical official in Musayib, a general hospital, the nearest medical facility, confirmed the toll. In another attack, a bomb blast outside a soldier’s house in the town of Himeen, in Diyala Province, killed the soldier’s mother and left his sister wounded.

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BOMB KILLS NINE AT MARKET IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN

KABUL, 14 May—Authorities say a bomb has exploded at a market in northern Afghanistan, killing nine people, including a local official.

The Ministry of Interior says the bomb went off on Monday morning inside a shop in a market in Faryab Province’s Ghormouch District. The ministry’s statement says the nine dead included a council member from a neighbouring province. The ministry says it has no other details.

In a separate statement Monday, the ministry said police killed 18 militants in operations across the country over the past 24 hours.

Qaeda suspects blow up Yemen gas pipeline

SANAA, 14 May—Suspected al-Qaeda militants blew up a gas pipeline supplying Yemen’s Balhaf export terminal in the Gulf of Aden, the second such attack in a month, a government official said on Monday.

“A gas pipeline was blown up near Mayfar in Shabwa Province in southeastern Yemen late on Sunday,” the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“Al-Qaeda blew up the pipeline in response to the raids that targeted it,” the official said.

Witnesses told AFP that flames were seen flaring into the sky from the site of the explosion that took place around midnight, some 30 minutes after soldiers guarding the pipeline clashed with a group of gunmen.

The amount of damage to the pipeline was not immediately clear and it was not known to what extent supplies of gas, from a field in Marib Province, were affected.

On Saturday, Yemeni forces launched a multi-pronged assault aimed at recapturing the southern city of Zinjibar, held by the jihadists for a year.

Earlier last week, air strikes by US drones in eastern Yemen killed jihadist network leader Fahd al-Quso, wanted by Washington in connection with the 2002 bombing of the USS Cole in Aden harbour.

Quo’s name figured on an FBI list of most wanted terrorists, along with a reward of up to $5 million for information leading to his arrest. Further air strikes were launched by US drones against al-Qaeda targets on Saturday, in which according to a tribal chief and witnesses 12 militants were killed.
NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—A Chinese delegation led by Member of Central Politburo of Communist Party of China and Vice-Chairman of National Committee of People’s Political Consultative Conference Mr Wang Gang arrived in Mandalay yesterday morning at 11.55 am to pay goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The delegation accompanied by the Chinese ambassador called on the Secretary-General of USDP at the party headquarters at 5.30 pm.

The meeting focused on strengthening friendly relations between USDP and CPC and continuing cooperation.

USDP Secretary-General U Htay Oo hosted a dinner to the Chinese delegation at Myat Tawwin Hotel. —MNA

Delegation led by Member of CPC Central Politburo arrives in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—A Chinese delegation led by Member of Central Politburo of Communist Party of China and Vice-Chairman of National Committee of People’s Political Consultative Conference Mr Wang Gang arrived at Mandalay International Airport at 11.55 am today. —MNA

CPC Central Politburo Member calls on USDP Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—At the invitation of Secretary-General U Htay Oo of Union Solidarity and Development Party, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua, Consul-General Mr Yu Boren and officials at the airport.

The delegation visited Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace and Cultural Museum and paid homage to Buddha Image on Mandalay Hill where they viewed the scenic beauty of Mandalay. They signed visitor’s book and donated cash through the Pagoda Board of Trustee.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint met the delegation at Mandalay Sedona Hotel and exchanged gifts. The Chief Minister hosted a dinner to the delegation.

Mr Wang Gang cordially greeted the artistes who performed songs and dances at the dinner and presented bouquets.

The delegation proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw at 8.20 am today. —MNA

Training courses of UMFCCI conclude


Chairman of the Work Committee for Human Resources Development Dr Myo Thet explained training courses of the UMFCCI Training Institute. The President and officials presented completion certificates and prizes to the trainees. —MNA

Labour laws and bylaws briefed

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Ayeyawady Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing addressed the briefing on Labour Organization Law, Labour Dispute Law and bylaws at Town Hall of Pathe on 12 May.

Officials explained the laws and bylaws. —MNA

Member of CPC Central Politburo calls on Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—At the invitation of Secretary-General U Htay Oo, USDP members and officials from the party headquarters welcomed the delegation at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

They exchanged views on peaceful coexistence between Myanmar and China, closer cooperation in international issues, friendly ties in 60 years of diplomatic relations, parliamentary undertakings, future socio-economic development of the people, strides for environmental conservation, poverty alleviation tasks, all-inclusiveness in Myanmar’s politics and developments of national reconciliation.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairmen and secretaries of committees, and officials at Hluttaw Office and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua. —MNA

Private Microfinance Development Supporting Committee holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—The Private Microfinance Development Supporting Committee’s 2/2012 meeting was held at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, here, this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun stressed the need to push all organizations to register and submit applications for licences. He said that international organizations, private banks and companies observe microfinance institutions of Myanmar. Thus, he said it is necessary to provide assistance for their convenience. He noted that it is needed to supervise tasks of microfinance institutions in line with law, rules and directives.

Secretary of the Committee Managing Director of Myanma Microfinance Supervisory Enterprise U Hein Lin reported on progress of works. —MNA

Myanmar, Philippines to cooperate in agricultural sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing met a delegation of the Republic of the Philippines led by Philippine Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ma. Helen B. De La Vega at the ministry today.

At the meeting, they had a discussion on production of rice, rubber, sugarcane, oil palm and foodstuffs by cooperating technologies; and investment for the development of the agricultural sector of both nations. And then, the ambassador and the merchants discussed investment in the agro-based industries that will produce value-added products of Total Solution Co., Ltd through WIN-WIN Practice.

Deputy A & I Ministers U Ohn Than and U Khin Zaw, Director-Generals of the departments, the Rector of Yezin Agricultural University, Executive Director Mr. Edward Tortorio, Mr. Kevin Sietho (Director Indo Food), Mr. Sony Lianio (Director Indo Food), Mr. Noel E. Torres (Business Development), Ms. Marielle F. Manlangit (Attaché) and members of First Pacific Group of the Philippines attended the meeting. —MNA

CPC Central Politburo Member calls on Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—The Office Management Course and Office Management Course, organized by People’s Political Consultative Conference Mr Wang Gang called on Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this noon.

They exchanged views on peaceful coexistence between Myanmar and China, closer cooperation in international issues, friendly ties in 60 years of diplomatic relations, parliamentary undertakings, future socio-economic development of the people, strides for environmental conservation, poverty alleviation tasks, all-inclusiveness in Myanmar’s politics and developments of national reconciliation.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairmen and secretaries of committees, and officials at Hluttaw Office and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua. —MNA
President U Thein Sein welcomes ROK President...

(from page 1)

The State Band played the National Anthems of both countries. President U Thein Sein and ROK President Mr Lee Myung-bak inspected the Guard of Honour.

The ROK President presented his entourage to President U Thein Sein. After that, President U Thein Sein introduced his entourage Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tun Hla, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Nyunt Hlaing.

President U Thein Sein hosts dinner to goodwill delegation led by ROK President

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein hosted a dinner to the goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak, who is on a goodwill visit to Nay Pyi Taw, at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this evening.

Those present at the dinner together with President U Thein Sein were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Soe Thein, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Union ministers, deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Nyunt Hlaing and departmental heads and together with the Korean President were Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr Kim Sang-Hwan, Minister of Knowledge Economy Mr Hong Suk Woon, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae-young and senior officials.

Artists of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture performed songs and dances before and during the dinner.

The artists entertained the visiting Korean President with traditional songs and dances after the dinner.

President U Thein Sein presented the Korean counterpart the documentary photo album of the latter’s visit. The two leaders then presented bouquets to the artists and posed with them for documentary photo.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets goodwill delegation led by CPC Central...

(from page 16)

The essence of five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence is mutual respect, equal respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other country. China has gone against sanctions of the western countries long ago.

China always desires to bring about good to the peoples of the two countries.

China was hectored by economic development and socio-economic development of the people as the relationships, at home and abroad, become lively under the President’s administration. China would always support political reforms in Myanmar.

The international community should offer constructive assistances to Myanmar in flourishing its national characters, and ensuring stability, peace and development.

China believes that Myanmar people would achieve the goal of development under the leadership of the President. China would support Myanmar for ever.

For his part, President U Thein Sein expressed his thanks for the message of greetings conveyed from Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao. He next offered his sympathy for the Chinese families in northwestern China for the loss of property in extreme weather condition. He added that during his visit to China in May last year after the new government taking office, it was a great pleasure for him to be able to forge multilateral strategic partnership with the Chinese President. Exchange of visits of leaders of the two countries and bilateral amity over the past 60 years have further strengthened bilateral amicability and cooperation.

The President expressed his wish to have a continued developed bilateral relationship, adding that Myanmar is always grateful to China of its more than 20 years of support and standing up for some issues.

He continued that although Myanmar is trying to keep balance between the three pillars of the nation, it still has to be careful about every step for reforms due to immature democratic experiences and practices. Efforts are also being made to ensure peace and stability and national economic development, which are two key requirements for flourishing democracy. Myanmar is working together with internal political organizations for prevalence of peace and stability.

In an effort to make peace with national ethnic armed groups, understanding and peace have been achieved with 10 groups. However, peace has yet to be made with Kachin State sharing border with China. While Chinese leaders and people wish to see peace and tranquility of the border region, Myanmar is also exerting peace efforts. So, Myanmar here asks for help and support of China for this issue.

The President went on to say that Myanmar is inviting international investments for the development of people’s socio-economy. Without complete lifting of all sanctions against Myanmar, foreign investors have yet to dare to come to the country. This is why Myanmar is making continued endeavours for having those sanctions lifted completely. Deepest thanks are due to China for offering help with economic investments for more than 20 years. Myanmar will continue to support one China policy.

Then, President U Thein Sein conveyed his message for Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao and Premier Mr Wen Jiabao and other Chinese leaders wishing their good health and happiness.

Also present at the meeting together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Hay, Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Electric Power No.1 U Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and departmental heads. Together with Mr Wang Gang were Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and high-ranking officials. MNA
Myanmar wants ROK to share its experience of
(from page 16)

In his greetings, President U Thein Sein said he warmly welcomed the goodwill visit of the Korean President. It is a great pleasure for him to have met again with the Korean President since they last met at the 20th anniversary of establishment of ASEAN-Korea friendship held in the Republic of Korea in 2009. It has been the first ever visit of a President of Korea to Myanmar over the past 29 years. As this is also the very first visit during the time of new Myanmar government, it will surely serve as a milestone in the history of bilateral relations. Myanmar and Korea established their diplomatic ties in 1975 and the bilateral friendship has been further cemented. With this improvement, a new chapter has been opened in the field of friendly relations. It is heartening to see the relations between the two peoples improving. So, based on those results, Myanmar wishes to further promote bilateral cooperation in the future.

The President continued to say that now is the time when Myanmar is prioritizing State peace and stability, national economic development and human resource development. For peace and tranquility of the nation, peace talks are being held with national ethnic armed groups. As a result, it is hoped that all those groups will participate in the peace process. In the national reconciliation effort, Myanmar is also trying to cooperate based on common ground, conditionalism and different ideologies. In the agricultural sector, reforms necessary for monetary, financial, trade and investment-related organizations are being conducted. Likewise, Myanmar is striving for development of agrarian sector, rural development and poverty alleviation and rural socioeconomic development. Indeed, the Korean government and people have much experience in promoting democratic reform, economic development and people’s living conditions. So, Myanmar and its people want to be shared with such experience.

The Korean President said he took pride of being the first Korean President to visit Myanmar in 30 years. He assumes the Myanmar President as a new and very close friend. As Myanmar is building a new nation with new system and promoting democracy and human rights, she will make more new friends in international community who could assist with Myanmar’s development. It is right choice Myanmar took human resources development as sine qua non for development.

Also in development of Korea, HRD played a significant role. For development of a nation, political commitment, comprehensive plan and human resources development are needed. Various Korean officials accompanied him in this trip and it is intended to start practical cooperation.

Then, the two leaders frankly discussed matters related to strengthening friendly ties, technical assistance for development of Myanmar, human resources development, investment, finance, economy, education, infrastructure, industrial development, environmental conservation, tourism, transportation, communications, science and technology, energy and mining sectors.

MNA

The Mineral President of Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAV PYI TAW, 14 May—A goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak arrived here at 2:15 pm today to pay goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The Korean President was welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by national race youths with bunches of flowers. The Guard of Honour saluted the President.

The delegation was welcomed by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein, departmental heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae-Yong and embassy officials.

School children waved flags of the two countries along the road as the delegation proceeded from Nay Pyi Taw Airport to Amara Hotel where they would stay.

MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister attends Ministerial Meeting of Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Movement

Pacific Region, the Union Minister chaired the plenary session on 10 May afternoon. The Ministerial Meeting adopted the Sharm El Sheikh Final Document, the Declaration on Palestine and the Declaration on the Centenary Year of the African National Congress. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by Senior Officials Meeting on 7 and 8 May.—MNA

MNA

A delegation led by President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak arrives at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.
Palathwe hybrid paddy harvested in Einne

EINME, 14 May—A ceremony to harvest model plot of Palathwe hybrid paddy was held at field No. 40/41 of Yethoe paddy area in Einne Township of Myaungmya Township in Ayeyawady Region on 27 April morning. It was attended by Township Administrator U Yazar Win, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Kyaw Kha Kyaw Thet and farmers.

The harvesting of paddy produced 162.2 baskets of paddy per acre in dry status. Those wishing to take Palathwe hybrid paddy seeds and agricultural technology can contact Agriculture Department. 

Township Agriculture

Import permit for migrant workers allowed

YANGON, 14 May—The applications for import vehicles submitted by Myanmar workers in foreign countries was temporarily suspended in the past. These applications are allowed as of 3 May, according to the Labour Department. Those wishing to work abroad are being allowed at No. 43 of Panglong Hall of Labour Department on Minye Kyaw Kha Kyaw Thet and farmers.

Sub-power station launched for supply of electricity

PYU, 14 May—A ceremony to launch the 160 KVA sub-power station was held in Thabyehtat model village of Chikhin Village-tract in Pyu Township of Taungoo District in Bago Region on 5 May with the aim of supplying electricity on a self-reliant basis.

Region Minister for Industry and Electricity U Baby Ohn pressed the button to launch the sub-power station. Superintendent Engineer of the region U Ko Naing and Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Mya Thein Tun formally opened the station. 

Village electricity supply committee U Aung Moe explained the efforts made for supply of electricity and progress of tasks.

Township IPRD

Orchid Nurturing Course 1-8 June

YANGON, 14 May—Organized by Myanmar Floriculturists Association, the Orchid Nurturing Course on commercial scale 1/2012 will be conducted at the hall of the association at the People’s Square, here from 1 pm to 3 pm daily from 1 to 8 June 2012. 

A total of 50 trainees will be admitted for the course whose fee is K 15,000 per head.

Those wishing to attend the training course may dial 579561.

Kyemon

Seintalon mango fruits of Mandalay exported

MANDALAY, 14 May—As Mandalay Region is blessed with favourable weather and it is suitable for cultivation of mango, and the region is designated as mango special cultivation zone for cultivation of quality mango plants. Thanks to pre-Thingyan rains, fruits from mango plantations in Kyaukse, Hmawby, Myoogyi, Tadli, Amarapura, Myint, Shweinlin and Patheingyi in Mandalay Region are ripening and these fruits are now being transported to fruit brokerage in Mandalay.

Mango fruits from various surrounding areas of Mandalay flow into the fruits brokerage on 85th Street in Mandalay, and export to the market of China via Muse border route, setting the price at one box per 1.5 yuans.

Thittha Ko Ko Mandalay

Bo tree watered for 11th time in Insein Township

YANGON, 14 May—A ceremony to pour water at Bo tree was held on Mindhamma Hill on which Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image was being kept in Insein Township on 5 May morning.

At the ceremony, Head of Township Administration Department Township Administrator U Tin Naing Seintalon mango fruits of Mandalay exported

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The Workers’ Day was observed at Ayeyu Hall in Kyangin Township of Ayeyawady Region on 1 May. 

Township Administrator U Soe Than reads the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.

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Leftist Mexican presidential candidate rises in poll

Lopez Obrador, the 2006 runner-up, rose 3 percentage points to 26 percent, according to the poll for Monday’s edition of newspaper Excelsior, which BGC published on its website on Sunday. The first survey by BGC since last Sunday’s televised debate between the presidential contenders showed Josefina Vazquez Mota, of President Felipe Calderon’s National Action Party (PAN), slipping 2 points to 26 percent.

Both remained far behind hot favourite Pena Nieto, candidate of the opposition Institutional Revolutionary Party or PRI, who dipped 2 points to 45 percent, BGC said.

Pena Nieto’s debating skills had been seen as a potential liability ahead of the debate, but analysts said he held his own. Initial opinion polls after the showdown suggested Lopez Obrador had performed better than Vazquez Mota in the exchanges.

BGC interviewed 1,200 eligible voters between 7 and 9 May for the survey. The margin of error was 2.9 percentage points, it said.

Maria Pique.—BORDEAUX, (France), 14 May—French industrialists are being forced to build multi-storey warehouses inside the capital to meet the demand for space. The rate of construction appears unstoppable, with three or four of these new structures going up at all times.

The latest to be built is a 100,000 square-metre warehouse, with a capacity of 10,000 trucks, that is going to be built right in the middle of Paris. It is being built by the car manufacturer Renault and is part of its efforts to save on costs. The company has already built a similar warehouse in its own plant in the suburbs of the capital.

The situation has been made worse by the fact that the French government is planning to close more factories and lay off more workers. The government has announced that it will close 10 factories and lay off 10,000 workers over the next two years.

The car manufacturer Renault is one of the main companies that have been hit by the recent economic crisis. The company has announced that it will be laying off 2,000 workers in France over the next two years.

The situation is not just limited to Renault. Other car manufacturers, such as Peugeot, are also facing difficulties. Peugeot has announced that it will be laying off 3,000 workers in France over the next two years.

The situation is not limited to the car industry. Other industries, such as the construction industry, are also facing difficulties. The construction industry is one of the main industries that has been hit by the economic crisis. The industry has announced that it will be laying off 5,000 workers in France over the next two years.
Indonesia airline boom raises new safety questions

Jakarta, 14 May—Dozens of fledging airlines that have sprung up to serve Indonesia’s island-hopping new middle class could jeopardize the archipelago’s recently improved safety standards.

The trend threatens to erode Indonesia’s safety reputation, aviation experts say.

With growth rates of nearly 20 percent per year, Indonesia is one of Asia’s rapidly expanding airline markets, but is one of Asia’s most rapidly growing countries.

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Lincoln's sword replaced with replica

A Chicago sculptor created a replacement for a copper sword that was stolen and broken from Abraham Lincoln's tomb, officials said.

The 3-foot sword was stolen from Lincoln's tomb last fall by a teenager, the Chicago Tribune reported.

However, when police caught up to the thief, the sword was broken in two.

Marshall Svendsen, director of an art production house, volunteered to create a new sword from the pieces. The entire process for Svendsen and colleague Lok Hong took about 40 hours.

Svendsen and Hong installed the finished product Friday. “The whole experience was a real pleasure,” Svendsen, 32, said Saturday. “I feel I’ve been compensated in how much attention the project has received and to be part of such an important historical monument.”

This is the three-foot long copper sword stolen from Abraham Lincoln’s Tomb in the Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois. It was there sometime in September (left) and now is gone (right).

The original bronze version was stolen in the 1990s.

A replica of a Bronze Age boat created by British craftsmen and archaeologists failed to float when it was launched, officials said.

Crowds gathered in Dover Saturday to watch the launching of the replica boat, Kent Online reported. The team that built the boat worked on it for several months using the same tools and methods employed during the Bronze Age 3,500 years ago.

However, before a team of rowers boarded the vessel, it began to sink. The boat started listing minutes after it was lowered into the Dover breakwater and had to be hauled back out.

Archaeologist Peter Clark, who headed the project, said the team will continue its efforts to come up with a usable boat.

“We are hopeful that we can think again and make the boat good,” he said. “We have come an awfully long way in the past three and a half months and we think we are nearly there.”

British rugby player to swim Atlantic

British rugby player Dan Martin says he put on 56 pounds in preparation for reaching his goal of being the first person to swim across the Atlantic Ocean.

Martin, 30, has been training for more than three years to swim the 3,500 miles from New York to Brest in France. The Daily Telegraph reported.

The swim — the first stage of his 18-month “global triathlon” — will take him between four and six months, Martin says.

Training for more than three years,” the actress tweeted last Wednesday. “I feel I’ve been helping myself against the Atlantic’s cold temperatures. He said he had been eating four meals a day with 3,500-calorie energy drinks. While in the water, Martin will be accompanied by the Ice Maiden, a 50-foot research yacht, with a five-person team to supply him with fluids and snacks. He will swim for about 8 hours a day and sleep aboard the boat.

The only other person to successfully swim across the Atlantic was Benoit Lecomte, a Frenchman, in 1998, which he accomplished in 73 days. However, Lecomte slept on a drifting boat each night, which helped him cover more distance. Martin said he plans to use a GPS device each morning to return to where he finished the previous night.

“I was tuned to see what’s next for Amber Riley,” a source told Internet.

She has now decided to move on and so beautiful,” he said. “Access Hollywood” reported.

“it was great to have a Canadian woman: No memory of hitting moose

A Canadian woman says she has no memory of driving 25 miles down the highway after hitting a moose.

The windshield of Michelle Higgins’ car was smashed and the roof was ripped open by the collision, which occurred while she was on her way to work in Gander Monday, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported. “I can remember pulling into the driveway and my co-workers came out and asked me if I was OK and I said ‘Why?’ and they said ‘Well Michelle you’re bleeding and look at your car. I looked at my car and I was devastated,” Michelle Higgins told the CBC Friday.

“The roof was like a sardine can. I thought, ‘this is impossible.’”

“Know my head! I had a good impact and my forehead has a scar,” she added.

She worries if she was driving “like some sort of lunatic.” The Norris Arm, central Newfoundland, resident was badly bruised and fractured two neck bones. The moose died.

British actress-singer Amber Riley has now got a great deal more airplay in the UK and her music is doing well on the record charts. She is an American actress-singer via Twitter she has wrapped her role of Mercedes on the popular music-themed series “Glee.”

“Access Hollywood” said her character will graduate at the end of the current third season of the show.

“That’s a wrap on Amber Riley! Just closed a chapter in my life, the only thing I’ve known day in and day out for three years,” the actress tweeted last Wednesday.

“I am going to miss the whole Glee family, my Glee family, everyday,” she said.

“I have so many brothers and sisters now:) But I am looking forward to a much needed and deserved summer vacation! SCHOOL’S OUT Glee Kids! Let’s play! Stay tuned to see what’s next for Mercedes.”

American actress-singer Amber Riley

New York, 14 May—Beach Boys singer and keyboardist Bruce Johnston was captured on video criticizing US President Barack Obama while signing autographs this week in New York.

“Obama is an [expletive],” the New York Daily News quoted him as saying in a video posted on TMZ. “Unless you’re interested in never having any money and being socialized.”

Bruce Johnston slams Obama

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Ambassador to Canada, Kent Online reported.

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Martin, 30, has been training for more than three years to swim the 3,500 miles from New York to Brest in France. The Daily Telegraph reported.

The swim — the first stage of his 18-month “global triathlon” — will take him between four and six months, Martin says.

Training for more than three years,” the actress tweeted last Wednesday. “I feel I’ve been helping myself against the Atlantic’s cold temperatures. He said he had been eating four meals a day with 3,500-calorie energy drinks. While in the water, Martin will be accompanied by the Ice Maiden, a 50-foot research yacht, with a five-person team to supply him with fluids and snacks. He will swim for about 8 hours a day and sleep aboard the boat.

The only other person to successfully swim across the Atlantic was Benoit Lecomte, a Frenchman, in 1998, which he accomplished in 73 days. However, Lecomte slept on a drifting boat each night, which helped him cover more distance. Martin said he plans to use a GPS device each morning to return to where he finished the previous night.

“I was tuned to see what’s next for Amber Riley,” a source told Internet.

She has now decided to move on and so beautiful,” he said. “Access Hollywood” reported.

“it was great to have a Canadian woman: No memory of hitting moose

A Canadian woman says she has no memory of driving 25 miles down the highway after hitting a moose.

The windshield of Michelle Higgins’ car was smashed and the roof was ripped open by the collision, which occurred while she was on her way to work in Gander Monday, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported. “I can remember pulling into the driveway and my co-workers came out and asked me if I was OK and I said ‘Why?’ and they said ‘Well Michelle you’re bleeding and look at your car. I looked at my car and I was devastated,” Michelle Higgins told the CBC Friday.

“The roof was like a sardine can. I thought, ‘this is impossible.’”

“Know my head! I had a good impact and my forehead has a scar,” she added.

She worries if she was driving “like some sort of lunatic.” The Norris Arm, central Newfoundland, resident was badly bruised and fractured two neck bones. The moose died.
**Di Matteo in dark over Chelsea future**

**London, 14 May—** Roberto Di Matteo has admitted he has no plans to meet with the Chelsea hierarchy to discuss his future. The interim first-team coach oversaw his side’s final day Premier League victory over Blackburn Rovers on 13 May in what could be his last game in charge at Stamford Bridge.

**Sawgrass in Florida, USA, 13 May—** Matt Kuchar after sinking his final putt on the 18th green to win the Players Championship PGA golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Florida, USA, on 13 May, 2012.

**Madrid, 14 May—** Champions Real Madrid beat Mallorca 4-1 to break the 100-point barrier on the final day of La Liga season. The Santiago Bernabeu was given the first chance to celebrate Mourinho’s maiden Spanish title with ‘Los Blancos’ and resonated with a celebratory atmosphere to see skipper Iker Casillas lift the trophy after the Madrid derby.

In the celebrations that followed, Argentine striker Gonzalo Higuain indicated he may be about to leave Madrid, with recent speculation linking him with a move to Paris Saint-Germain.

“They have been almost six great years here in which I have had to fight for everything. I’m very grateful to the club and I’ve always tried to show this whenever I’ve taken to the pitch, hope everything turns out well,” he said. Mallorca needed a win to qualify for next season’s Europa League and battled hard against a Real side who claimed their 32nd Spanish title two games ago.

Ronaldinho, who played in an 18-minute opener and two minutes later Benzema finished off a swift passing move after receiving a Ronald pass to double the lead. **Internet**

**Portrait: Victoria Azarenka of Belarus was given the first chance to celebrate Mourinho’s maiden Spanish title with ‘Los Blancos’ and resonated with a celebratory atmosphere to see skipper Iker Casillas lift the trophy after the Madrid derby.**

**Cheslea manager Roberto Di Matteo, pictured here on 5 May, oversawa his side’s final day Premier League victory over Blackburn Rovers on 13 May in what could be his last game in charge at Stanford Bridge.**

**Federer, Serena hammer out French Open threat**

Swiss Roger Federer holds his trophy after winning the final tennis match of the Madrid Masters against Czech Tomas Berdych at the Magic Box (Caja Magica) sports complex in Madrid. Federer won 6-3, 6-5. **Internet**

**Madrid, 14 May—** Roger Federer and Serena Williams took home trophies on Sunday from the Madrid Masters, with the pair of veteran champions hoping to channel their clay success into more glory at Roland Garros.

While the French Open starting in a fortnight, both the Swiss, who put his best tennis on display to beat Tomas Berdych 6-3, 7-5, 7-5, and Williams, who crushed world number one Victoria Azarenka/Belarus 6-4, 7-5, are confident of their form.

“Those are exciting times ahead for me,” said Federer, who will fly to Italy on Monday but will decide only before his opening match on Wednesday whether his body feels fit enough to compete at the Rome Masters.

“I’m winning so many events and playing so well. I believe that I can win the slam,” he said.

“I know the difficulty of the French, the focus will be on Novak (Djokovic) who is going for four slams in a row and on Rafa (Nadal) because he’s the defending champion,”

“An interesting event and I’m playing well, let’s see how it plays out.”

Serena Williams of the US poses with the Ion Tiriac trophy after winning the final tennis match over Victoria Azarenka/Belarus at the Madrid Open tennis tournament on 13 May, 2012. **Internet**

**Real Madrid hit 100-points mark in La Liga final**

Real Madrid players hold the Spanish League trophy at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 13 May. Champions Real Madrid beat Mallorca 4-1 to break the 100-point barrier on the final day of La Liga season. **Internet**

**Japan pins judo hopes on young blood**

**Tokyo, 14 May—** Japanese judo has been in a state of decline in recent years but the country is pinning its hopes on an infusion of new blood at the London Olympics. Japan tops the Olympic medals table for judo since the martial art was introduced at the 1964 Games with 35 golds, compared to 10 for France in second place.

Japanese competitors won eight out of 14 judo gold medals at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens but four years later that figure fell to four in Beijing.

Tomoko Fukushima, who won the women’s 48 kilogramme class at the final qualifier at the weekend, said on Monday that the match had created an instant bout of Olympic nerves.

“IT has a soothing effect, more than feeling elated,” she said. The 26-year-old told a news conference in Fukushima, southern Japan, after bagging her first title in two years.

“The London Olympics are just around the corner so I can’t afford to waste a single day,” added Fukushima, one of seven women judoka headed for the Games in July and August.

“Everything was on the line and I was so charged up for it.” Twelve of the 14 judoka who qualified to represent Japan will be making their Olympic debut following a spate of upset results during the course of the two-day meet. Two-time world champion Haruna Asami left the arena in tears after a shock first-round loss.

“IT was over-confident,” sobbed Asami. “My world title is meaningless.”

World champion Misato Nakamura, who beat world number one Yuka Nishida to win the 52kg title, was in a buoyant mood and vowed to improve on her bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Games. **Reuters**

**Kuchar holds steady to clinch Players title**

**Ponte Vedra Beach, 14 May—** American Matt Kuchar won the Players Championship on Sunday by two shots to secure the biggest win of his career and a $1.71 million pay check.

Kuchar, who found 10 of 14 fairways and struck 15 greens in regulation, wrapped up the tournament when he coolly sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th to surge three strokes clear. **Reuters**

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Michael Jackson costumes to be exhibited, sold

Los Angeles, 14 May—Michael Jackson’s glittery gloves, spangled jackets, stage-worn costumes and personal fashion effects are going on a world tour.

Celebrity auctioneer Darren Julien says clothing created by Jackson’s longtime costume designers will be exhibited in South America, Europe and Asia before being sold to the highest bidder in December.

The exhibit opens May 18 at the Museo de la Moda in Santiago, Chile. It features items such as Jackson’s Captain EO shirt, the black spandex outfit from his “Scream” video and the breakaway suit he wore during his BAD tour in the late 1980s. The items will be sold by Julien’s Auctions on 2 December, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Guide Dogs of America and Nathan Adelson Hospice in Las Vegas. —Internet

Pendleton ‘can’t wait’ for Olympic Games

Victoria Pendleton (centre) rides in the women’s Keirin at the 2012 Track Cycling World Championships in Melbourne last month. —INTERNET

LONDON, 14 May—Britain’s Victoria Pendleton said Monday she was in even better shape heading into the London Olympics than when she won cycling gold on the track in Beijing four years ago.

“Training has been going really well. I’m really pleased with it,” said Pendleton, one of Britain’s leading hopes for a home gold medal.

“I look at a two-year training programme to build up to the Olympics and I’m really pleased with the way it’s panned out and I think I’m in the best form I’ve ever been in at this stage. Definitely compared to the last Olympic cycle I’m in better condition.

“I don’t really think I could get any fitter. As an elite athlete you’re always on the limit, push yourself further and you could get injured.”

World champion Pendleton said she couldn’t wait to start her Olympic campaign.

“I’m feeling really positive about it. I just want to get out there now. It’s nearly here, I’ve got a 100-days-to-go chocolate calendar and I’m opening the doors and can see how close it’s getting.” —Internet

Neville joins England coaching staff

London, 14 May—Former Manchester United defender Gary Neville has been named as part of new England manager Roy Hodgson’s coaching staff, the Football Association said on Monday.

Neville, who has impressed as a TV analyst since hanging up his boots, will join Ray Lewington and goalkeeping coaches Ray Clemence and Dave Watson at the European Championship that starts next month.

The FA said Neville, who won every domestic honour with United, played 85 times for England and featured at two World Cups, had agreed a four-year contract. “Roy asking me to be a part of his staff and to work with the national team is not only an honour but a very special moment for me,” Neville said in a statement.

“I had absolutely no hesitation in accepting this role and I am relishing the opportunity to work alongside Roy and the team at the Euros and through to the next two tournaments.” Hodgson, who will name his Euro 2012 squad on Wednesday, said Neville would bring a wealth of experience.

“Gary has achieved so much in the game as a player with Manchester United and England,” Hodgson, who signed off as West Bromwich Albion manager on Sunday, said. —Internet
Myanmar wants ROK to share its experience of democratic reform, economic development and promoting living conditions of citizens

**President U Thein Sein**

It is right choice Myanmar takes HRD as sine qua non for development

**President Mr Lee Myung-bak**

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**President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar holds discussion with Korean goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak at President Office.**

Myanmar held discussion with a Korean goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak at the Hall of the President Office here at 5.20 pm today. Present at the meeting together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Energy U Than Hlay, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Electric Power No (2) U Khin Maung Soe, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tin Hla, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Nyunt Hlaing and departmental heads. Together with the President of ROK were Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae-yong and high-ranking officials.

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**President U Thein Sein meets goodwill delegation led by CPC Central Politburo member**

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**Nav Pyi Taw, 14 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met a goodwill delegation led by Member of Central Politburo of the Communist Party of China Mr Wang Gang at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw.**

Myanmar President. The diplomatic relations of 60 years, developed by leaders of the two countries survived changes of the world. The exchange of visits of top leaders of both countries could strengthen mutual trust during recent years. Sector-wise cooperation could bring successes. The two countries opened new chapter of friendly ties by agreeing multilateral strategic partnership meeting with the Myanmar President and Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao on the Myanmar President’s visit to China.

Friendly relationship for over 60 years is the outcome of equal respect, mutual respect and cooperation for win-win situation.

(See page 8)