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.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Brazilian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior at the Credentials Hall of the President Office here at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint and departmental officials. They discussed bilateral cooperation in environmental conservation, technical assistance in biofuel, science and technology, agriculture and irrigation and mutual cooperation for development.—MNA

Personal Profile of Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh

India’s fourteenth Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh is rightly acclaimed as a thinker and a scholar.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was born on 26 September, 1932, in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India. Dr Singh completed his Matriculation examinations from the Punjab University in 1948. His academic career took him from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, UK, where he earned a First Class Honours degree in Economics in 1957. Dr Singh followed this with a D. Phil in Economics from Nuffield College at Oxford University in 1962.

Dr Singh’s academic credentials were burnished by the years he spent on the faculty of Punjab University and the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. He had a brief stint at the UNCTAD Secretariat as well, during these years. This presaged a subsequent appointment as Secretary-General of the South Commission in Geneva between 1987 and 1990.

In 1971, Dr Singh joined the Government of India as Economic Advisor in the Commerce Ministry. This was soon followed by his appointment as Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in 1972. Among the many Governmental positions that Dr Singh has occupied are Secretary in the Ministry of Finance; Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission; Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Advisor to the Prime Minister; and Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

Dr Singh served five years between 1991 and 1996 as India’s Finance Minister. His role in ushering in a comprehensive policy of economic reforms is now recognized worldwide.

Among the many awards and honours conferred upon Dr Singh in his public career, the most prominent are India’s second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan (1987); the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress (1995); the Asia Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993 and 1994); the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993); the Adam Smith Prize of the University of Cambridge (1956); and the Wright’s Prize for Distinguished Performance at St. John’s College in Cambridge (1995). Dr Singh has also been honoured by a number of other associations including the Japanese Nihon Keizai Shimbun. Dr Singh is a recipient of honourary degrees from many universities including the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

In his political career, Dr Singh has been a Member of India’s Upper House of Parliament (the Rajya Sabha) since 1991, where he was leader of the Opposition between 1998 and 2004. Dr Manmohan Singh was sworn in as Prime Minister on 22 May after the 2004 general elections and took the oath of office for a second term on 22 May, 2009.

Dr Singh and his wife Shrimati Gursharan Kaur have three daughters.
NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—Union Minister for Electric Power No.2 U Khin Maung Soe received a delegation led by Vice-President Mr Zhou Zhichu and party of China Southern Power Grid International Co Ltd, at his office, here, yesterday.

China Southern Power Grid (CSG) Co is an organization that operates power system in Southern China. The company has experience in construction of power networks of Laos and Vietnam and wants to construct 500 KV and 230 KV power grids in Myanmar.

They discussed the survey of Shweli (3), Meiktila 500 KV power grid and Mawlamyine-Yeleti 230KV power grid projects.—MNA

Union Minister receives Norwegian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—Mr Stein R. Paulsen from International Recycling & Sustainable Project of Norway, paid a call on Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tin, at his office on 24 May. At the call, the both sides discussed drafting of environmental conservation projects and implementation and donation of funds.

Also present at the call were: Director-General U Aye Myint Maung of Forest, and Director-General U Tin Tun of PSD. MNA

Union EP-2 Minister meets Vice-President of China Southern Power Grid International

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Hospitality Management Course concludes

YANGON, 26 May—Concluding ceremony of Hospitality Management Course No.(5/2012) organized by Myanmar Restaurant Owners Association and under the supervision of Hotels and Tourism Ministry took place at Tourism Training School at the corner of Maha Bandoola Street and 31st Street in Pabedan Township here yesterday morning, with an address by Managing Director of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Service U Hla Htay who presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Next, responsible persons presented certificates and gifts to trainees and course instructors. MNA

Union Sports Minister meets officials of sports federations

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan met sports federations which would field athletes in XXVII SEA Games at the ministry here yesterday afternoon.

He called for training the athletes extremely as the host have to clinch more medals and for adopting strategies and techniques depending on the opponents. The presidents and secretaries of the federations reported to the minister on preparations of the tentatively selected teams.—MNA

KOICA renovates Yangon (SPEI) clinic

YANGON, 26 May—A ceremony to present certificate of honour to Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), was held at Institute of Sports and Physical Education Institute (SPEI)(Yangon) in Tannway Township, here, yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, KOICA representative Mr Shin Man Shik explained renovation of clinic in the SPS (Yangon). And Ms Eom Hyeun Jung discussed “Improvement of ISPE clinic environment and new education course” and “Korea Oversea Volunteer”. Afterwards, the resident representative handed over the lists donated by KOICA to principal of the

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister inspects regional development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung on 22 May arrived in Zahlan to pay homage to Mannaungmay Pyitawpyan Buddha Image.

He inspected progress of repairing of river bank near UpaYe Pagoda in Hinthada and the chosen site for construction of a gymnasium in Lamyathu. On 23 May, the Region Chief Minister paid an inspection tour of the chosen site for construction of a basic education primary school (branch) in Kyekyin Village in Htoooppy Village-tract in Laymyethna Township, where he made cash donation amounted to K 0.3 million for the construction. MNA

Aung San Suu Kyi received a ceremony in the region, and a ceremony for the construction of a gymnasium in the region was held.

In addition, he carried a mobile phone easily so we don’t miss important calls, and we can call for direction if we get lost. When on a trip in an unfamiliar place needing help, we can rely on them. If we are in an accident, we can call the police or ambulance, and also take pictures of the accident.

And there are many other advantages that to take mobile phones essential part of today’s human society of the ever advancing world.

Although, mobile phones can offer much help, there are also downsides. Too much use of mobile phones introduces bad effects like dizzy, blood-brain barrier, or ear problems. Especially, teens and children under 16 are more vulnerable to brain damage due to mobile phone use.

Mobile phones sometimes cause more hazards on the roads than drunk and distracted driving when people use them to talk, text or access the internet while behind the wheel. The worst thing is that they emit radiation which many scientists say is dreadful to the eardrum and even the cause of brain cancer.

As they have become the essential part of human life, we find it impossible to live without them. So, the best way is we must educate ourselves to the hazards and benefits of using them. Moreover we must find means to protect ourselves from bad effects harmful to our health. And then buy a mobile phone.

Mobile phones Want to own a mobile phone? Everybody will say yes, because mobile phones are convenient, compact and multi-functional. They help us contact our friends and family members from any place or at any time. We can make contacts with others easily by calling or sending messages even without electricity. So, it is clear why almost all the people today wish to have a mobile phone.

In addition, we can carry a mobile phone easily so we don’t miss important calls, and we can call for direction if we get lost. When on a trip in an unfamiliar place needing help, we can rely on them. If we are in an accident, we can call the police or ambulance, and also take pictures of the accident.

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Canadian arrested for incident at Miami airport

MIAMI, 26 May — A Canadian man was arrested at Miami International Airport on Friday for rushing to the front of an American Airlines flight from Jamaica after it had landed, authorities said.

The FBI said 24-year-old Ryan Snider caused no injuries or damage to the plane and his behaviour did not appear to be terror-related. But a statement from the agency said he was taken into federal custody and “expected to face federal charges which may include interference with a flight crew.”

An initial court appearance for Snider was expected to be scheduled for Tuesday, the statement said. A spokesman for American Airlines’ parent AMR Corp said earlier that Snider appeared “disoriented” after he stood up and refused to sit as the plane taxied to its airport gate.

“We had what appeared to be a ‘disoriented’ male passenger who stood up at his seat in the main cabin after landing in Miami as the flight was taxing in,” AMR spokesman Tim Smith said.

He did not obey crew member instructions to sit down and then moved toward the front of the aircraft where he was subdued,” Smith said. The Boeing Co 757 with 120 passengers was concluding a flight from Montego Bay, Jamaica, to Miami.

On Tuesday, a US Airways flight was diverted after a passenger said she had a surgically-implanted device in her body and the flight was disrupted. In a separate incident the same day, the crew on a US Airways commuter flight operated by the carrier’s Piedmont subsidiary, reported a “possible flare” when the plane was approaching the Philadelphia airport.

US criticism of China’s human rights “biased”

BEIJING, 26 May — A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on Friday described a recent US government report on China’s human rights practices as “biased.” The spokesman urged the United States to stop interfering in the internal affairs of other nations. “It is a sad fact that remarkable, well-recognized progress has been achieved in China’s field of human rights over the past 30 years and more,” spokesman Hong Lei said in response to the “Country Reports on Human Rights for 2011,” which was issued by the US State Department on Thursday.

Hong said the report’s criticism of China is biased and baseless. “There is always room for improvement on human rights for any country,” the spokesman said, adding that all the countries in the world can deepen mutual understanding for common improvement through equal dialogue. But no single country should use human rights as a tool to interfere with another’s internal affairs, he said. “We sincerely advise the US side to do more self-examination and stop its wrong thinking and doings on the issue,” he added. — Xinhua

Dam bursts in Hunan but no casualties

CHANGSHA, 26 May — A dam burst on Friday evening in the central province of Hunan but no casualties had been reported as scores of villagers downstream had been relocated, according to the provincial authorities on Saturday.

The Badoucan reservoir dam burst around 6 pm on Friday and water had flooded Xintang village of Taoying county, said the Hunan provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters.

Heavy rain since Tuesday had increased water levels, putting pressure on the dam. The ensuing flood damaged 10 hectares of crops.

Finn dies in ski accident on Alaska’s Mount McKinley

ANCHORAGE, 26 May — A Finnish climber has died after falling some 2,000 feet while attempting to ski down a notoriously steep chute on Mount McKinley in Alaska, the National Park Service said on Thursday.

Ilkka Uusitalo, 36, fell from an elevation of 17,800 feet through snow, ice and rocks on Wednesday, before coming to rest 60 feet down a glacial crevasse, the Park Service said.

One of Uusitalo’s expedition partners rappelled into the crevasse but found that he was likely dead, the Park Service said.

The second expedition partner summoned Denali National Park mountain rescuers for help.

Rangers found Uusitalo’s body, retrieved it from the crevasse and flew it off the mountain, the Park Service said.

Uusitalo’s death is the second this year on McKinley, North America’s tallest peak. A German climber died in a 1,100-foot (335-metre) fall last Friday.

The long chute that Uusitalo was attempting to ski, as steep as 45 degrees in some spots, is an alternative to the easier West Buttress route that most climbers use on 20,320-foot (6,194-metre) McKinley.

Only a small percentage of McKinley climbers use the chute and most of those who do climb with crampons and traditional mountaineering gear, said Maureen McLaughlin, a spokesman for Denali National Park. Descending the route on skis is less common, but is done by a few climbers each year, McLaughlin said.

“This team in particular had a lot of ski experience,” she said. Uusitalo, of Oulu, Finland, was the 16th person to die since 1972 while descending that route, the Park Service said.

Park records suggest that he is the first person to die while skiing down the chute, McLaughlin said. But there have been other serious skiing and snowboarding accidents there in the past, she said.

Weather conditions at the time of the accident were considered good, but the snow at the high elevations had not yet started the softening that normally occurs later in the climbing season, McLaughlin said.

The local government has started the emergency response plan to repair the dam. The Badoucan reservoir was constructed in 1973. It has been listed on the provincial reservoir reinforcement plan, as it has been known to have safety risks. — Xinhua

China adds Georgia as travel destination

BEIJING, 26 May — Georgia has officially become a new travel destination for Chinese citizens, according to an agreement reached between tourism authorities of the two countries. The decision was announced on Friday after officials of the two countries signed an Approved Destination Status (ADS) Memorandum of Understanding on Friday in Beijing.

Zhu Shanzhong, vice director of the National Tourism Administration, said the signing and implementation of the MoU is expected to bring a new wave of Chinese tourists to the country. He also suggested Georgia tourism authorities to focus on promotion in China and develop more tourism products that are particularly tailored for Chinese tourists. Tourists have flocked to Georgia in recent years to bath in hot springs in the capital Tbilisi or relax on the country’s Black Sea coast beaches. — Xinhua

Jail for two blamed for New Zealand cargo spill

WELLINGTON, 26 May — The captain and a navigator of a ship that ran aground on a New Zealand reef have each been sentenced to seven months in jail.

Authorities have described the 5 Oct grounding of the cargo ship Rena as New Zealand’s worst maritime environmental disaster. About 400 tons of fuel oil spilled on Astrolabe Reef near Tauranga and at least 2,000 seabirds died.

Capt Mauro Balomaga and officer Leoni Relon, both of the Philippines, had earlier pleaded guilty to operating the ship dangerously and failing to try to reach port by a deadline. — Reuters

Cyclades island in Greece. The name “Cyclades” refers to the islands forming a circle (the name in English means: “circular islands”) around the sacred island of Delos. According to the Greek mythology, Poseidon, God of the sea, furious at the Cyclades nymphs turned them into islands. — Reuters

Photo taken on 25 May, 2012 shows the waterlogged Bulin Village of Jingyun County, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The continuous rainstorms in Guangxi have killed at least two people and damaged over 1200 houses. It has affected about 7,640 hectares of farmland and 309,400 people, with direct economic losses of nearly 111 million RMB yuan (17.5 million US dollars), authorities have evacuated 4,900 people in lowlying areas. — Xinhua

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Workers rush repair damaged oil pipeline in Zibo, east China’s Shandong Province, on 25 May, 2012. Around 8 am on Friday, a construction team damaged a section of the oil pipeline near the Jinan-Qingdao Expressway, according to a statement released by the Zibo municipal government. As of 5 pm on Friday, the source of oil passing through the line had been cut off and workers were cleaning up the site. — Xinhua

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Finnish climber Ilkka Uusitalo, 36, was found dead 60 feet down a glacial crevasse in the Mount McKinley area of Alaska. — Xinhua

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Amazon offers ‘test drives’ of phone apps

SEATTLE, 26 May—Amazon says Android device owners unsure if they want to buy an application will be able to “test drive” it in its App store before they buy.

However, the feature is currently available in a beta version and only supports apps that use the touch screen and accelerometer features of smartphones, Amazon said.

Apps that require the keyboard, multitouch or the camera are not currently supported, it said. Amazon had launched its Test Drive service last year but users could only try out apps from their browser, not directly in the App store. —Internet

Surprising source of Arctic mercury seen

CAMBRIDGE, 26 May—Toxic mercury in the Arctic, long thought to be coming primarily from atmospheric sources, is also being carried into the region by rivers, US scientists say.

While the atmospheric source has long been studied, new research suggests twice as much mercury actually comes from the flow of circumpolar rivers that carry the element north into the Arctic Ocean. Harvard University researchers reported on Monday.

“The Arctic is a unique environment because it’s so remote from most anthropogenic (human-influenced) sources of mercury, yet we know that the concentrations of mercury in Arctic marine mammals are among the highest in the world,” Harvard scientist Jenny A Fisher said. “This is dangerous to both marine life and humans. The question from a scientific standpoint is, where does that mercury come from?”

The most important rivers flowing to the Arctic Ocean in Siberia are the Lena, the Ob, and the Yenisei.

Mercury emission from gold, silver, and mercury mines in Siberia may be polluting those rivers, researchers said.

The Arctic Ocean is shallow, which increases its sensitivity to input from rivers, they said. “The environmental implications of this finding are huge. It means, for example, that climate change could have a very large impact on Arctic mercury, larger than the impact of controlling emissions to the atmosphere,” Fisher said.

“More work is needed now to measure the mercury discharged by rivers and to determine its origin.”

New ideas about Saturn’s ‘oddball’ moon

ITHACA, 26 May—A moon of Saturn that looks like cosmic wet sponge is in fact covered in ices, both of water and carbon dioxide, images from a NASA spacecraft show.

Hyperion, with an irregular potato-like shape and honeycomb surface, is the subject of a new analysis of images taken by NASA’s Cassini spacecraft in September 2005. Science-News.org reported on Wednesday.

Hydrocarbons and iron-containing compounds mixed in with the ice give the moon a reddish appearance, researchers said.

“Writing in the planetary science journal Icarus, scientists say Hyperion shows similarities to some comets, suggesting the possibility the moon formed elsewhere before being captured by Saturn.”

A separate team of researchers reporting in the same issue of Icarus says Hyperion’s strange, sponge-like surface is likely the result of a number of processes, including impacts blasting debris into space, eroding crater walls and melting of ice, all contributing to creating one of the solar system’s most strangely-shaped inhabitants.

Coyote-sized raptor dinosaur fossil found

SALT LAKE CITY, 26 May—US paleontologists say they’ve discovered the fossil of a 130 million-year-old raptor dinosaur no bigger than a modern coyote in a national park in Utah.

The new raptor, called Yurgouuchia doellingi, was discovered in Utah’s Arches National Park in an area dubbed Doelling’s Bowl Bone Bed, named after paleontologist Helmut Doelling of the Utah Geological Survey, who first discovered the bone-rich site. Doelling is a new raptor is a member of the family of
dinosaurs known as Dromaeosaurus—their short legs have been known to serve as a weapon for killing prey, a climbing aid, or digging tool.

The sharp-toothed, clawed carnivores roamed the Earth during the Cretaceous period, preying on smaller creatures.

The name of the raptor is derived from the Ute word yurgouuch, or coyote, and doellingi to honor Helmut Doelling, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Computer malware threats still rising

SANTA CLARA, 26 May—Malware threats against PCs are at the highest levels in four years and are on the increase on Macs and Android devices, computer security firm McAfee says. In the past quarter McAfee collected 83 million pieces of PC malware samples, up from 75 million samples collected by the end of last year, CNET.com reported on Wednesday.

McAfee also reported a significant increase in malicious software targeting the Android platform and Mac computers.

A total of 8,000 mobile malware samples were collected this quarter, of which nearly 7,000 were Android threats, mainly from third-party app markets, it said. With the United States being the primary source of cyberattacks, malware threats could reach the 100 million mark this year, a release from McAfee said. E-mail continued to be a medium for targeted attacks along with an increase of so-called rootkits, a form of “stealth” malware, it said.

Connected vehicles can help prevent crashes at busy intersections.

Car safety system gets real-world test

ANN ARBOR, 26 May—A $22 million safety research project will equip motor vehicles with connected technologies, devices that may someday prevent crashes, US researchers say.

The University of Michigan’s Transportation Research Institute, in the largest street-level pilot project in the western hemisphere, has partnered with the US Department of Transportation to test connected vehicle technology in real world use by actual drivers, the university reported.

The technology involves vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure wireless communications that privately and securely transmit and receive vehicle data such as position and speed and can alert drivers to apotential crash situation such as a nearby vehicle unexpectedly breaking, a sudden lane change or merging traffic.

Nearly 3,000 cars, trucks and buses will be equipped with the technology while similar devices will be located at intersections, curvy locations, and freeway sites throughout the test area, researchers said.

“We are equipping vehicles that spend time driving in the 48105 ZIP code northeast Ann Arbor and the surrounding area,” Jim Sayer, an UMTRI researcher, said.

“We are working closely with the university community, but also with the Ann Arbor Public Police to identify individuals who want to know more about this technology and might consider having it installed on their personal vehicle.”

Surprising source of Arctic mercury seen

THE LENA RIVER DELTA. THE LENA IS ONE OF SEVERAL MAJOR RIVERS THAT FLOWS NORTHWARD INTO THE ARCTIC OCEAN. 

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**China urged to act on growth as exports show spark**

BEIJING, 26 May—China should step up efforts to spur economic growth, including cutting the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves, a government adviser said on Friday, even as the government saw tentative signs of a recovery in exports. The comments by Premier Wen Jiabao and other leaders have fueled market expectations that the government could roll out more stimulus measures to combat an economic slowdown.

Wen said this week the government would step up policy fine-tuning to give more attention to supporting growth and existing government spending plans on key projects should be brought forward. “The government intends to stimulate the economy, but the bottom line is it can only do that if the bottom is not too weak,” he said. “We need to help maintain the momentum of economic growth.”

**Business & Health & Business & Health & Business & Health**

**Health Tip: Log migraine details in a diary**

Tracking your migraines can better prepare you to prevent or treat these often-debilitating headaches. The Womenshugh.gov website suggests what to log in a headache diary:

* The date, time and duration of your migraine.
* What you were doing and where you were when the migraine occurred.
* Anything you drank or ate within 24 hours of the migraine.
* If you are a woman, the duration of your menstrual period.

**Jet likely to order 100 planes for $3.75 b**

Jet Airways aircraft stand on tarmac at the domestic airport terminal in Mumbai on 9 Sept, 2009. — Reuters

NEW DELHI, 26 May—Jet Airways (Jet NS) is expected to order more than 100 narrow-body aircraft for up to $3.75 billion in 2012/13 as the largest Indian carrier grapples market share from its troubled rivals, a leading consultancy said.

The airline is understood to be actively evaluating Airbus’s (EAD PA) narrow-body A320s, which is likely to lease up to 10,433 to support expansion of its European network, the Centre for Aviation (CAPA), told Reuters.

A Jet spokeswoman said it was not immediately available for comment.

India’s aviation sector has been beset by high costs of fuel and airport charges and heavy debt, with all carriers except unlisted IndiGo Airlines posting losses in the fiscal year that ended in March. With two debt-ridden carriers, Kingfisher Airlines (KING NS) and Air India (AIRL NS), curtailing most of their flights Jet stands to benefit the most, CAPA said.

Kingfisher, owned by flamboyant liquor baron Vijay Mallya, has been struggling to pay off $1.3 billion loan and has slashed the number of its daily flights. State-owned Air India, which survives on government bailout, has cancelled most of its international flights because of an ongoing strike by its pilots.

“Kingfisher’s dramatic contraction from 69 to 29 operational aircraft, of which half are regional ATR aircraft, has left the domestic business market open for Jet Airways,” CAPA said.

**ATR, which makes small haul planes, is an equal partnership between two major European aeronautics players, Alenia Aermacchi, a Finmeccanica (SIFI MI) company, and EADS (EAD PA).**

The disruption at Air India’s long haul routes has driven North American and UK traffic to Jet, it said.

Jet and other private carriers such as SpiceJet (SPIC NT) and unlisted Go Air and Indigo are likely to post a combined profit of $200 million in the fiscal year ending next March, the consultancy said.

However, losses at Kingfisher and Air India will keep the industry in the red to the tune of $1.3 billion to $1.4 billion in 2012/13, compared with a total industry loss of $2 billion in the previous year, CAPA said.

**Samsung S3 named bestseller pre-ordered phone of the year**

LONDON, 26 May—Samsung’s new Galaxy S3 phone has become the fastest selling pre-order phone of the year, according to Europe’s largest independent mobile phone retailer Carphone Warehouse.

The retailer confirmed that thousands of customers had pre-ordered the new flagship Android smartphone device, The Telegraph reported.

Over 800 Carphone warehouses will stock the phone during its launch, which will go on sale on 29 May to those who have pre-ordered it.

Graham Stapleton, Chief Commercial Officer at Carphone Warehouse, claimed, “Pre-order demand for the new Galaxy S3 has surpassed expectations since the handset was first unveiled two weeks ago.

The first 24 hours alone saw thousands placing their pre-order at Carphone Warehouse.

Earlier this week, it was reported that nine million S3s had been pre-ordered by more than 100 carriers.

**Samsung Galaxy S3**

Will come in contact with the user’s face.

**China urges to act on growth as exports show spark**

**Breast milk antibodies help neutralize HIV**

WASHINGTON, 26 May—Antibodies isolated from infected mothers’ breast milk can inhibit the virus that causes AIDS, says a new discovery. HIV-1 can be transmitted from mother to child via breastfeeding, posing a challenge for safe infant feeding practices. The new finding that high HIV-1 prevalence is also one in 10 HIV-infected nursing mothers is known to pass the virus to their infants.

“Breast milk is remarkable, because nursing children are exposed multiple times each day during their first year of life,” said senior author Sallie Permar, assistant professor of paediatrics and infectious diseases at Duke University Medical Centre (DUMC). “We are asking if there is an immune response that protects 90 percent of infants, and could we harness that response to develop immune system prophylaxis (protection) during breastfeeding for mothers infected with HIV-1,” Permar, who led the study, was quoted as saying in the journal Public library of Science.

“Our work helped establish that breast milk can produce HIV-neutralizing antibodies, so enhancing the response or getting more mucosal B-cells to produce those helpful antibodies would be useful, and this is a possible route to explore for HIV-1 vaccine development,” Permar said, according to a university statement.

“Is this important work that seeks to understand what a vaccine must do to protect babies from mucosal transmission during breastfeeding,” said Barton Haynes, MD, study co-author and a national leader in AIDS/HIV research who is also director of the Institute for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology (CHAVI), as well as director of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute (DHVI). “The antibodies isolated are the first HIV antibodies isolated from breast milk that react with the HIV-1 envelope, and it is important to understand how they work to attack HIV-1,” added Haynes. —Internet

**J4ntentional use of marijuana**

* Anything you drank or ate within 24 hours of the last time you used.
* What you were doing and where you were when the last time you used.
* The date, time and duration of your last migraine.

**Now a portable tool to detect dengue mosquitoes!**

“Unlike other approaches to mosquito surveillance, this new tool provides information on whether mosquitoes are carrying dengue,” Muller was quoted as saying in the Journal of Virological Methods.

“It is rapid, specific, and does not require specialised equipment or personnel. This means it will be viable for use in developing regions of the world where dengue is a significant health and economic burden,” Muller said, according to a university statement.

Almost half of the world’s population is at risk of contracting the virus which is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infamous female mosquito.

Emily Paul, professor leader of Muller’s team at the Australian Infectious Diseases Research Centre, said that rigorous field testing was still being conducted.

“The goal of this work is to develop the tools to not only assess mosquito numbers in the field but also their infection status,” Young said.

“This information could then be directly uploaded with GPS information via mobile devices to coordinating centres,” Young added.—Internet

**Antibodies isolated from breast milk**

Every year, almost one million people, a large proportion of whom are children, require hospitalisation for severe dengue. Besides, over a 100 million people being infected globally can result in mild to significant health and economic burden.

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“This information could then be directly uploaded with GPS information via mobile devices to coordinating centres,” Young added.—Internet
Afghan parliament approves US-Afghan security pact

KABUL, 26 May — Afghanistan’s parliament approved on Saturday a strategic pact between Kabul and Washington, clearing the way for a US presence in the country for at least a decade after most foreign combat troops leave in 2014. This was done for the interest of Afghanistan,” said Daoud Kalakani, an MP from Kabul. Around 180 MPs were present and only four voted against, Kalakani said. The deal signed by US President Barack Obama and Afghanistan’s Hamid Karzai in Kabul on 2 May, sets out a long-term US role in Afghanistan, including aid and advisers. Most of the contentious parts of the pact, which could have seen the objective parliament reject the deal, had earlier been removed and dealt with, separately, giving Afghans control of controversial night raids on homes and prisons used to detain insurgents. — Reuters

China’s ZTE Corp, which recently sold Iran’s largest telecommunications firm a powerful surveillance system, later agreed to ship to Iran millions of dollars worth of embargoed US equipment, documents show. — Reuters

US probes China’s ZTE over tech sales to Iran

WASHINGTON, 26 May — The Department of Commerce is investigating Chinese telecommunications equipment maker ZTE Corp for allegedly selling embargoed US computer products to Iran. The investigation was launched following reports by Reuters in March and April that ZTE had signed contracts to ship millions of dollars worth of hardware and software from some of America’s best-known tech firms to Telecommunication Co of Iran (TCI) and a unit of TCI that ZTE said has signed contracts to ship millions of dollars worth of hardware and software from some of America’s best-known tech firms to Telecommunication Co of Iran (TCI) and a unit of TCI based in Shenzhen, China, to the consortium that controls it along with the Iranian regime. TCI is Iran’s largest telecommunications company. “We’ve been pursuing this very aggressively, said a Commerce Department official. Investigators already have met with representatives of ZTE, a spokesperson for ZTE, the US companies either declined to comment about the investigation or did not respond to requests for comment. According to people familiar with the matter, some of the US companies have received subpoenas requesting information about their dealings with ZTE and Iranian contractors. The Commerce Department official said there is no evidence the American companies were complicit in the transactions. The US companies either declined to comment about the investigation or did not respond to requests for comment.” — Reuters

ZTE 中兴

Qaeda-linked suicide bomber kills 12 in Yemen

SANAA, 26 May —Two al-Qaeda-linked suicide bombers targeting Iran’s Shiite Muslims blew themselves up at a school and a protest march in northern Yemen on Friday, killing at least 12 people, the defence ministry said. An offshoot of Ansar al-Qaeda’s Yemen-based wing, said. An offshoot of Ansar al-Qaeda’s Yemen-based wing, said it had carried out both attacks in revenge for the killing of fellow Sunni Muslims by Houthi protesters. Earlier on Friday, another suicide bomber targeted a Houthi protest march in the rugged northern province of al-Jawf, killing 12 people, according to a local official. Investigators already have met with representatives of ZTE. As a spokesperson for ZTE, the US companies either declined to comment about the investigation or did not respond to requests for comment. According to people familiar with the matter, some of the US companies have received subpoenas requesting information about their dealings with ZTE and Iranian contractors. The Commerce Department official said there is no evidence the American companies were complicit in the transactions. The US companies either declined to comment about the investigation or did not respond to requests for comment.” — Reuters

Suspect in Kosovo org trafficking arrested

PRISTINA, 26 May — A suspect in a human organ trafficking scandal that came to light in Kosovo in 2008 has been arrested in Israel, the European Union’s police and justice mission in the Balkan country said Friday. Mooshe Harel was arrested along with several other people in connection with a parallel investigation in Israel, said the mission, known as EULEX. Police in Kosovo accuse Israeli Harel of seeking out people in need of kidney transplants and luring donors to Kosovo from Turkey and other European countries of the former Soviet Union with the promise of $15,000 to $20,000 (20,000 to 30,000 euros) in payment. It is not known whether they received the money. The organs were then sold on for between $100,000 and $150,000 (100,000 to 150,000 euros). — Reuters

Ontario forest fire halts gold projects

TORONTO, 26 May — Two more Canadian companies — Briggus Gold Corp and Lake Shore Gold Corp — have joined the list of miners halting operations in northern Ontario as dozens of forest fires caused power outages and forced evacuations in the region. Briggus suspended gold production at its Black Fox mill near Timmins, about 700 kilometres (450 miles) north of Toronto, because of a power outage. The company expects electricity to be restored early next week, it said on Friday. Its Black Fox mine, some 30 km away, is still operating, and the company is stockpiling ore to be processed once power comes back online, the company said in a statement. Smoke from a forest fire about 15 km southwest of Lake Shore Gold’s Timmins West project forced it to halt operations there on Thursday. The underground mine remains temporarily closed. “We canceled the day and night shift for tomorrow, and then it’s just day and day after that,” company spokesman Mark Utting said. Lake Shore sees no impact from the fire on its production forecast in the near term. Lake Shore says it is working to restart operations at both its Bell Creek mill and Timmins West mine. Operations at Bell Creek, east of Timmins, have not been affected by the fire. — Reuters

UN inspectors find high-grade uranium traces in Iran

VIENNA, 26 May — United Nations nuclear inspectors have found uranium particles refined to a higher-than-expected level at a underground site where Iran has installed more than 50 percent more enrichment centrifuges, a UN watchdog report said on Friday. It said Teheran had told the UN agency that the presence of traces of highly refined uranium — still well below potential nuclear weapons-grade material — “may happen through technical reasons beyond their control”. The United States — which like its Western allies and Israel accuses Iran of seeking to develop atomic bomb capability — said the Iranian explanation could be correct and a leading US expert said he saw nothing “naturally” in the discovery. The International Atomic Energy Agency report came a day after six world powers — the United States, Russia, Britain, Germany, China and France — failed to convince Iran to halt its most sensitive nuclear work during 23-24 May talks in Baghdad. At the heart of the dispute is Iran’s insistence on a right to enrich uranium and that economic sanctions should be lifted before it shelves activities that could lead to its achieving the ability to assemble nuclear weapons. Western powers have warned that Iran’s progress in refining uranium beyond 90 percent — or weapons-grade — uranium. The IAEA report said environmental samples taken in February at Iran’s Fordow facility — buried deep beneath rock and soil to protect it from satellite — showed the presence of particles with enrichment levels of up to 27 percent. That is above the 20 percent enrichment level Iran has declared at the site, and takes it across the line from low-enriched to high-enriched uranium. “The Agency is assessing Iran’s explanation and has requested further details,” the IAEA report said. — Reuters

Iron’s chief negotiator Saeed Jalili addresses a news conference after a meeting in Baghdad, on 24 May, 2012. Iran and world powers agreed to meet again in Moscow next month for more talks to try to end the long-running dispute over Teheran’s nuclear programme, but there was scant prospect to resolve the main sticking points between the two sides. — Reuters

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Cash assistance provided to War Veterans Organization family’s students

HINTHADA, 26 May — A ceremony to hold coordination meeting of Organizing Committee of Hinthada Township War Veterans Organization and provide cash assistance to students, was held at City Hall of Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region on 16 May. At the ceremony, Mr Lee Hansung, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Local and Foreign Workers Affairs Committee and ASEAN Economic Community Committee Dr Myint Kyi, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Nu, member of National Assembly Republic of Korea, delivered a speech. After that, Dr Khin Shwe and Mr Lee Hansung inked and exchanged the MoU and cash assistance provided to students, was held at City Hall of Hinthada Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on 22 May.

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Meeting on natural disaster preparedness held in Sittway

SITTWAY, 25 May — A meeting on works for achieving MDGs and natural disaster preparedness was held at the meeting hall of Rakhine State Development Tasks Undertaken in Ponnagyun Township

PONNAGYUN, 26 May — Staff officer U Hla Baw Thu of Ponnagyun Township Information and Public Relations Department undertook the rural socio-economic development in three village-tracts of Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State, from 18 to 20 May, in cooperation with officials from Immigration and National Registration Department, Forest Department and Myanmar National Scrutiny cards and household lists, dissemination of knowledge on environmental conservation and reducing crime.

Meeting on natural disaster preparedness held in Sittway

SITTWAY, 25 May — A meeting on works for achieving MDGs and natural disaster preparedness was held at the meeting hall of Rakhine State Health Department in Sittway, on 16 May. At the ceremony, Dr Than Tun Aung of State Health Department explained facts about national environment activities and natural disaster preparedness. Those present gave suggestion, and follow-up works were coordinated.

Books, cash donated to Alinyaung library in Tatkon Township

TATKON, 26 May — A ceremony to donate cash, furniture, books and publications to Alinyaung library in Latpan village, Latpan village-tract, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, was held at the library on 20 May. At the ceremony, wellwishers donated cash, books and publications through member of library committee — Myanmar Alin

Rural socio-economic development tasks undertaken in Ponnagyun Township

PONNAGYUN, 26 May — Staff officer U Hla Baw Thu of Ponnagyun Township Information and Public Relations Department undertook the rural socio-economic development in three village-tracts of Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State, from 18 to 20 May, in cooperation with officials from Immigration and National Registration Department, Forest Department and Myanmar National Scrutiny cards and household lists, dissemination of knowledge on environmental conservation and reducing crime.

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Traditional “Tug-of-War” contest held: Traditional “Tug-of-War” or “Rain Call” competition was held for three days at the front of Baungdaw pagoda in Palengweyaung ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay as of 23 May.

Myanmar, ROK ink MoU on cooperation

YANGON, 26 May — Under Myanmar-Korea Friendship Programme, a ceremony to sign MoU on cooperation between Myanmar Hluttaw Education, Health and Culture Committee Dr Myint Kyi, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Nu, member of National Assembly Republic of Korea, delivered a speech. After that, Dr Khin Shwe and Mr Lee Hansung inked and exchanged the MoU. And they had documentary photo taken. Myanmar and the ROK will undertake development works in the sectors of education, health and culture.
Magway Region Chief Minister on inspection tour of Thayet District

**Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May**—Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Ohn inspected progress in construction of Kyautkastaing Village Station Hospital in Mindon Township, Thayet District, and construction of Minkon Creek Bridge on 25 May. After viewing the free distribution of exercise books for 2012-2013 academic year to basic education schools at the township education officer’s office, the region chief minister met with departmental staff at the township administration department. He then inspected construction of diversion weir near Maday Dam in Kanma Township, Thayet District, and proposed fresh approach for multiplying the plantation acreage by growing the crop in rainy season.

The Union minister and party also visited 10-acre Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton plantation in Pobbatthiri Township where the deputy minister and Director U Aung Maw of Cotton Crops Division conducted 75 farmers from Yamethin, Pyawbwe and Takton Townships round the plantation.

The Union minister called for organizing the farmers to establish model plots in each Region and State. The deputy minister gifted 90 visses of strains to the visiting farmers.—MNA

**Union A&I Minister visits sugarcane, cotton plantations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May**—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Ohn Tha, Directer-General of Agricultural Department U Kyaw Win, Director-General of Industrial Crops Development Department U Kyaw Shwe and officials, met sugarcane plantation staff from sugar mills and 110 farmers at special high yield sugarcane 10-acre plantation in Zayathiri Township here this morning.

He said sugarcane is an important crop for the State and a profitable crop as the scientific cultivation of the crop could yield above 50 tons per acre. He urged not only to extend plantation acreage but to apply new cultivation techniques and new species.

The deputy minister asked the staff to help the farmers acquire first-hand knowledge of scientific cultivation methods.

Managing Director of Sugarcane Enterprise U Zaw Myint Tun reported situations for helping farmers yield above 60 tons per acre and proposed fresh approach for growing the crop in rainy season.

The Union minister, the deputy minister and observers viewed round six months old 10-acre sugarcane plantation.

The Union minister and party also visited 10-acre U Kyaw Kyaw Myint’s sugarcane plantation in Pobbatthiri Township where the deputy minister and Director U Aung Maw of Cotton Crops Division conducted 75 farmers from Yamethin, Pyawbwe and Takton Townships round the plantation.

To the Union minister for organizing the farmers to establish model plots in each Region and State. The deputy minister gifted 90 visses of strains to the visiting farmers.—MNA

**National Environment Sanitation Activities (2012) marked in Monywa (MNA)**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May**—Chair Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye yesterday morning attended the opening of a ceremony to mark National Environment Sanitation Activities (2012) held at the town hall in Monywa and made a speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister proceeded to Monywa People’s Hospital and asked after the wounded children.

Later, the Chief Minister went on to Pyidawtha Kan-U Pagoda in Aungtha Village and inspected the paving of Pyidawtha Kan-U-Mohnyin Thanbuddle street after paying homage to the pagoda.—MNA

**Thai military delegation concludes visit**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May**—The Thai delegation led by Commandant of National Defence Studies Institute of Royal Thai Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief's Office General Padetgarn Janaewoke concluded visit yesterday evening.

Commandant of Defence Services Medical Academy Brig-Gen Thit Lin Ohn, Commander of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science Brig-Gen Zaw Myint and senior military officials saw off the delegation at Yangon International Airport before their departure.—MNA

**Think Tank of F & R Ministry meets**

The government of the Central Bank of Myanmar explained that opening of foreign currency accounts had been allowed on 17 May, 2012 under instruction No. 12/2012 as to deal with foreign currency brought at money changer counters of authorized dealer license holder banks, held with FED form and earned as income.

The feasibility committee for opening of joint venture bank was formed on 21 May, 2012 and the committee would study the rules and regulations and procedures necessary, and the risks. The government then explained the capacity, competitiveness of private banks and further requirements for working as joint-venture.

The meeting came to an end with the suggestions of the consultative team members.—MNA

**Union Attorney-General meets law officers of Magway, Minbu and Thayet Districts**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May**—Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin met with law officers of Magway, Minbu and Thayet Districts in Magway Region on 25 May and law officers of Pakokku District and made clarifications.

On the occasion, the Union Attorney-General stressed the need to run functions in accordance with the laws to be in line with the changing times and systems, followed by a general round of discussions where officials from Magway Region presented their reports. Director-General U Win Myint of the Union Attorney-General’s Office touched upon the reports. The Union Attorney-General along his trip also inspected law offices in Myaing and Yesagyo in Pakokku District.
Mitsui to renew investment in Myanmar

Invest more in Myanmar in 2013. Japan's Mitsui & Co Ltd will open its branch office here in coming June.

Executive Chief Representative for Myanmar of Mitsui & Co Ltd Mr Masanari Nagai revealed the Conglomerate's interest to invest more in Myanmar in meeting with Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung at the ministry here yesterday morning.

New investments of the company had the previous experience of investment in Myanmar during late 90s will include transportation and maritime businesses. The minister invited investment in harbour and port development and Dawei, Kyaukpyu and Thilawa Special Economic Zones and proposed joint venture for operating national flag carrier in international water.—MNA

Deputy F & R Minister meets service personnel of Magway Region Revenue Department

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Thaung met with service personnel of Magway Region Revenue Department at the office of the department on 23 May.

At the meeting, the deputy minister underscored the importance for service personnel of the revenue department to meet the set target realizing the objectives of the State and the department, and to abide by rules and regulations in engaging revenue functions and to effectively apply the information and communications technology to keep pace with changes and development. MNA

Two Myanmar sports contingents meets Cuban players

Yangon, 26 May—Sports and Physical Education Department Director-General U Thaung Htun met 26 members of Myanmar Shooting Federation led by President of the federation U Htet Nyi who are going to take part in the invitational shooting contest of 36th SEA Games to be held in Malaysia from 1 to 10 June and four athletes from Myanmar Track & Field Federation led by Vice President of the federation U San Tun who are going to take part in the 15th Asian Youth Track & Field to be held in Sri Lanka from 9 to 12 June were held at the office of the Sports and Physical Education Department here this afternoon.

At the meeting, the President of MSF, General Secretary of MSF Director of SPED U Kyaw Moe Win and Vice President of MTFF U San Tun reported on preparations for taking part in those sports events, and Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htun spoke words of encouragement to the athletes.—MNA

Visiting Vietnamese delegation tours Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May—The visiting delegation led by Director Mr Nguyen Chu Nhoc of Radio the Voice of Vietnam (VOV) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam this morning visited Uppatasanti Pagoda here and observed the Yadana white elephant at the white elephant shed near the pagoda.

Afterwards, the delegation led by Director Mr Nguyen Chu Nhoc of Radio the Voice of Vietnam proceeded to the Gems Museum/Nay Pyi Taw where they were welcomed by personnel from the museum.

The visiting guests were then conducted around the museum where they observed the gems and jewelry put on display there.—MNA

Union Energy Minister meets Vice President of Korea Gas Corporation

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May—Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay received a delegation led by Vice President Kim Byung-Joo of Korea Gas Corporation at his office here yesterday morning.

The guests enquired potentials for making investments in producing new petroleum products such as Dimethylether (DME) from chemical petroleum-based industries, and bilateral cooperation tasks. The Union Minister and officials responded that now is the time when the government is striving for development of private sectors in accord with the economic policy, joint ventures could be carried out not only with the Ministry of Energy but with domestic entrepreneurs. Besides, they informed the possible supply of oil and gas by the ministry for industries.—MNA

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay receives a delegation led by Vice President Kim Byung-Joo of Korea Gas Corporation.—MNA

Sagaying Region Chief Minister inspects regional development work in Ayadaw Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May—Sagaying Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye in meeting with the local people of Thabyaytha and Gethahmyaw villages of Ayadaw Township on 24 May explained education and health matters, upgrading of village-to-village road, adequate supply of drinking water and growing of trees. He next inspected construction of a new building of Gethahmyaw Village Middle School (Branch) and donated publications and sports gear for villages. Then, he also met the region chief minister met with the people of nearby villages and inspected construction of 2300-foot Mukhamgyi-Taikywa-Oakshitiy Road and Mu river-crossing bridge (Yangyi Aung). The 840feet long bridge links Mukhamgyi Village in Debayin Township and Yekyawa Village in Shekho Township.

Then, the region chief minister met with the people of Shwedwington Village of Ayadaw Township and inspected construction of a new two-storey building. Then, he also met the people of Chaungsone and Naunggyay villages and inspected the four-inch diameter artesian well being dug by Region Water Resources Department. The department in cooperation with the local people will dig 10 more artesian wells. Later, he met the people of three villages and construction of Ayadaw-Wadaw Road which is 7 miles and 2 furlongs long and 100 feet wide. MNA

Seikpyu Township marks school enrollment day

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May—The school enrollment for 2012-2013 academic year of Seikpyu Township (across the Township), Magway Region took place at Seikpyu BEHS this morning with an address by the Township Administrator U Win Myint.

Next, the Township Education Officer U Htay Win clarified about the school enrollment, and the Township General Administration Department, those from No. 2 Basic Education Department, physical education and special education.

Underwater photo contest concludes in tourism-oriented Cuba

HAVANA, 26 May—Cuban, Italian and Chilean photographers have won top prizes at an international underwater photo contest Cuba hosted with an aim to boost its tourism industry. Beginning last Sunday, the Fotosub 2012 contest attracted 50 photographers from Cuba, Italy, Chile, Argentina, Russia, Mexico and Canada, according to the Cuban Ministry of Tourism.

While announcing the winners on Friday, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Costa Largo del Sur, the island where the contest took place, will hold the 4th Championship of the World Underwater Federation in 2013 for its excellent diving conditions and high-level infrastructure. The first Fotosubcontest was held in 1982 at the Isle of Youth in southern Cuba, but the location was moved to Cayo Largo del Sur this year for the latter’s better natural conditions.

The island nation frequently sponsors photo contests to promote its tourism industry, its second largest source of foreign exchange reserves. The government also expects tourism to serve as an engine of growth to help develop other social and economic projects. The Caribbean island country received 2.7 million foreign visitors in 2011 and the number is expected to reach 3 million soon. Xinhu
Stake driven for construction of two-storey Sangha medical ward in Traditional Hospital

Old star plays against Actor star on 28 May

YANGON, 26 May—A litter disposal system implemented by Yangon City Development Committee has much success than expected, according to YCDC’s Environment Conservation and Sanitation Department at press conference on 24 May. The new system is a disposal of dry and wet rubbishes with colour bags. For public participation, educative periods from January through March are designated. Then, the new system has started on 1 April. Till 24 May, the public participation in the new system is 28.52 percent. It is expected to reach 50 percent at the end of September. Necessary actions will be taken against those who fail to follow it.

Meeting on reconstruction of Fire-hit Shanlan market held

YANGON, 26 May—Yangon City Development Committee held a meeting with shop owners of Shanlan market on reconstruction of fire-affected Shanlan market (a) Gwa market, Shan Lan Dhammayon in Sangyoung Township, on 24 May. At the meeting, the majority of shop owners and the market committee called for construction of one-stored steel market. It was built in 1959-1960. The 233 of 318 shops in the market were destroyed by the fire on 18 May, and the fire caused a loss of K 34.95 million.

YANGON faces power shortage

Factories in Yangon Region are facing power cut soon. There are more than 70 fish cold storage factories in Yangon, 23 of which are in operation. It is impossible to operate generators round the clock and daily although these factories have their own generators. These generators are reserved only for temporary power shortage. The generators consume one barrel of diesel per two hours. Some factories have stopped their operations, and about 10,000 workers there would be likely to become jobless. It can affect other related businesses. It is known that factory owners will make request to Yangon Region Government and Yangon City Electricity Supply Board (YESB) for supply of power at night.
WASHINGTON, 26 May — A US drone attack has killed at least four militants near a northwest Pakistan tribal district bordering Afghanistan, according to security officials. The attack took place early Saturday, at a house near Miranmishan, the main town of North Waziristan tribal district, a known hideout of Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants, officials said. “It was a US drone fired two missiles at a house and at least four militants were killed,” a senior security official told AFP. “The identities of the militants killed in the drone strike were not immediately known.”

Two other officials confirmed the attack. Residents said they were woken up by the sound of low flying aircraft and the noise of the missile strike. “The house caught fire after missiles hit it and militants immediately cordoned off the area and were searched in the rubble,” a local tribalman told AFP. “I heard a loud blast and was woken up by the sound of helicopters.”

North Waziristan is a stronghold of the Haqqani network. Afghan insurgents blamed for a series of spectacular attacks on Western targets in Kabul and Pakistanis Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud. Islamabad has been resisting US pressure to launch a sweeping offensive against militants in the area. Pakistan says the missile attacks are counter-productive, violate its sovereignty, kill civilians and fuel anti-US sentiment. It was the fifth US drone strike reported in Pakistan since parliament in March demanded an end to such attacks. — Internet

Tornado doesn’t stop Kansas couple’s wedding day

KANSAS CITY, 26 May — In the plains of central Kansas, tornadoes are so unpredictable that guests are rarely flinched as a barrel-racing bride and her bull-riding groom twirl under a cloud of dust from the sky just miles away. But for people living outside Tornado Alley, Cabin and Candace Pence’s wedding last Saturday is generating the same kind of excitement usually reserved for celebrity nuptials. The video of the service has gone viral, garnering more than 20,000 views on YouTube and a flurry of media coverage.

“Tornadoes are a regular occurrence in Kansas where I was born, and yet we felt like we were growing up in the Eye of the Storm,” said the groom’s uncle, Lee Pence.

The Pence couple shot the video. After Saturday’s outdoor service on the groom’s family farm near the small south-central Kansas town of Harper, the couple posed for photos with the twister visible behind them. The pictures capture them smiling serenely — the 21-year-old bride in a white gown and the 22-year-old groom in a cowboy hat and jeans. About eight to 10 miles away, the twister was damaging a farm and wind turbines.

The National Weather Service has classified it as an EF-3 storm, packing winds of 138 to 157 miles per hour.

In this 19 May, 2012 photo provided by Cate Eightmy, Cabin & Candace Pence pose for a wedding photo as a tornado swirls in the background after they were married in Harper County, Kan.

Portugal to hold world’s largest music festival

LISBON, 26 May — For the fifth time, Rock in Rio, the world’s largest music festival, will kick off here on Friday, with 250,000 people expected during the five-day event. Organizers want people to pay more to visit the festival. In 2010, the price of a one-day ticket was 58 euros (72.5 US dollars), and now it is 63 euros (78.7US dollars).

“We believe that people will be more choosy regarding how they are going to spend their money, and we make an effort to offer quality, so we will be one choice of the Portuguese,” Medina said. “Portuguese are the second largest buyers of tickets.”

Other than music, the festival offers entertainment. “We want (the festival) to be a Disneyland of music,” festival director and founder Roberto Medina said.

Though Portugal is still struggling with the effects of the eurozone debt crisis, the organizers want people to pay more to visit the festival.
Tsunami-carried motorbike to be shown in US

Yokohama. He lives in a coastal area of Miyagi Prefecture that was devastated by the 11 March earthquake and tsunami.

The US manufacturer of the bike had said it would restore the vehicle free of charge and send it back to its Japanese owner. But the company decided to preserve the bike as it is after the owner had expressed the wish that his vehicle will be used to help remind people of the disaster. The bike will be transferred from the Canadian city of Vancouver to the Harley-Davidson Museum in the US city of Milwaukee. The company says it will invite the finder of the bike and its owner when it displays the vehicle in the museum.

The Canadian finder told NHK that he understands what the owner wants to do and that showing the bike to many people is a good idea.

Bodies of two missing British boaters found

Bangalore, 26 May—The bodies of two missing British expatriates have been found in a river in India, police said Friday. Ian Turton, 45, and Michael Easton, 57, who both lived in Bangalore, were reported missing after they failed to return from a weekend trip to the Canyver River, The Times of India reported. The vehicle’s license plate helped to identify the owner, a 29-year-old Iyko motorcycle was found by Canadian Peter Mark last month on a beach on Queen Charlotte Island, about 6,500 kilometers from Japan. The vehicle’s license plate helped to identify the owner, a 29-year-old Iyko

Rooftop gunman kills two in Finland

Helsinki, 26 May—A gunman opened fire from a rooftop in a Finnish town centre in the early hours of Saturday, killing two people and wounding several others, police said. An 18-year-old man wearing camouflage clothing was arrested after the shooting in Hyvinkää, a small town 56km (34 miles) north of Finland’s capital Helsinki.

The motive for the shooting was unclear. It followed a series of shooting sprees in Finland in recent years and came less than a week after anti-immigrant gunman Anders Behring Breivik killed 77 people in a rampage in neighbouring Norway.

The suspect had no criminal background and police said he likely acted alone.

Police could not comment on whether he knew his victims. Both of the dead were 18-years-old. One was male and one female. Seven others were wounded. One, a policewoman, was in critical condition.

Media reports said some of the victims, including one of the dead, were members of a Finnish baseball team, Hyvinkää Täko, which had won a game on Friday.

The police’s regional chief inspector, Tiimo Leppala, said the shootings were first reported before 2am (2000GMT). The dead bodies were detained a few hours later, and police said they found two rifles afterwards.

FINLAND has one of the highest gun ownership rates in the world and a series of mass shootings prompted the government to toughen its gun laws last June. The suspect in Saturday’s case did not have a license, police said.

In November 2007, an 18-year-old student killed eight people at a high school near Helsinki before turning the weapon on himself. The following September, a 22-year-old killed 10 people in a small western town of Kauhajoki before shooting himself.

In December 2009, a man shot four people dead in a shopping mall in Espoo after knitting his ex-girlfriend to death. The man later killed himself—Reuter

A police officer finds the rifle used by a gunman from a rooftop in a Finnish town centre in Hyvinkää on May 26, 2012. —Reuters

Busan International Motor Show opens

Tokyo, 26 May—An international motor show that is held once every two years opened on Friday in the southern South Korean city of Busan. This year’s Busan International Motor Show is host to 22 carmakers from around the world exhibiting over 170 models, making it the largest show ever.

South Korean carmakers are especially aggressive as they eye the EU and US markets after free trade agreements with South Korea went into effect. They are showcasing passenger cars with innovative things. The Hyundai Motor released a new design for a model that is popular in the United States. President Kim Chong-ho said while doing its utmost in research and development.

South Korea will make aggressive investments to build a firm foundation that would not be shaken under any risky situation.—Internet
$25K offered for first 1-ton pumpkin

Organizers of a California pumpkin weigh-off championship said a $25,000 prize will go to the person who grows the world’s first 1-ton pumpkin. The winning pumpkin at the Half Moon Bay, Calif., competition must break the 2,000-pound threshold and be the heaviest pumpkin weighed in at the 8 Oct event, a release from championship organizers said.

The world record for heaviest-recorded pumpkin is 1,818.5 pounds, grown by Jim Kelsey Byrson, of Wellington, Ontario, the release said. “It sounds like matter of time before someone grows the first one-ton pumpkin, and it would be incredibly exciting to have that monumental landmark established right here,” said Cameron Palmer, chairman of Half Moon Bay’s Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off. “With Half Moon Bay’s proud tradition and legacy, it would not only be fitting but also a tremendous honour for our weigh-off.”

Hot dogs fall from the sky in Detroit

To celebrate a Detroit restaurant’s 95th anniversary, 955 raw hot dogs were dropped from a hovering helicopter onto a soccer field. The stunt, arranged by WQKL-FM, Detroit, honoured the American Coney Island restaurant, whose third-generation owner, Grace Keros, noted the famed eatery has “been at the same location for the past 95 years.”

The 955 dogs were dropped at the restaurant as “coneys,” were dumped from a helicopter several hundred feet off the ground, and fell from the sky before 25 contestants, chosen by the radio station, swarmed the field to see who could collect the most, The Detroit News reported.

Sylvia Lopez, 37, of Imlay City, Mich, was declared the winner, with 76 hot dogs stuffed into her shirt, and later admitted, “I love hot dogs, but I have to admit that right now, my hands smell kind of rank.” She will receive, for her efforts, $1,000 in “gas money” from the radio station, and a year’s supply of coneys from American Coney Island, the newspaper said.

Cameron Diaz flirts with David Attenborough

LONDON, 26 May — Actress Cameron Diaz, 39, openly flirted with veteran broadcaster, 86-year-old David Attenborough during a talk show.

The actress was in conversation with talk show host Graham Norton when she suddenly started chatting to her fellow guest, famed natureresource narrator Attenborough. They established a natural rapport, reports dailystar.co.uk.

Diaz asked to join Attenborough for a “private viewing” of outtakes from his show.

She told him: “I am so excited to meet you because I wanted to be a zoologist. I thought I would be one for my entire life and I did up studying animals, but human animals. As an actor that’s what I do, but I find so many surprises when I watch your shows.”

Attenborough responded: “I could teach you all sorts of things. You should see the outtakes,” prompting Diaz to say: “Perhaps we could have a private viewing?”

Elton John hospitalized, axes Vegas shows

Cedars-Sinai on Wednesday morning and underwent a battery of tests. Those tests resulted in the attending physician recommending that Elton not perform any concerts for approximately seven days with complete rest and antibiotic treatment to cure his respiratory infection and prevent any damage,” his representative told UsMagazine.com on Thursday.

Jane Fonda

Found joy in acting again, says Jane Fonda

LONDON, 26 May — Jane Fonda, who turns 75 this year, said that she was happy having found joy in acting again and wouldn’t let anything slow her down.

The actress said that this happened while she was writing her memoirs, ‘My Life So Far,’ that triggered her reawakening and to become a spokesperson for L’Oreal. “I’m back to the feisty girl I was but now I embody her in a whole different way. I think I help women understand to get to know who they are — and own it.” The Daily Express quoted her as saying.

“If someone had told me when I was 25 that I would be 74 and happier than I’ve ever been I would have said, ‘You’re out of your mind, I’m never going to be happy then, but I find I am,'” she said. — Internet

Teen solves centuries-old math problem

A 16-year-old in Germany who solved a centuries-old math problem credited his accomplishment to “schoolboy naivety.” Shouryya Ray, whose family moved from India to Dresden when he was 12, solved a pair of fundamental particle dynamics problems posed by Isaac Newton more than 350 years ago to make it possible to calculate the flight path of a ball and predict how it will hit and bounce off a wall, The Local de reported.

Ray said he learned about the problems when his school, which specializes in science, sent his 11th grade class to the Technical University in Dresden. The teenager said his “schoolboy naivety” would not allow him to accept that the problems couldn’t be solved. “I asked myself: why can’t it work?” he told the D.bz Weit newspaper. Ray said he is currently deciding whether to study math or physics when he moves on to college.

Beijing: Only two flies per toilet

City officials in Beijing said they are suggesting new standards for public toilets to allow only two flies per facility.

The Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment released new policies asking workers in parks, tourist areas, transport stations, hospitals, shopping centres and supermarkets to ensure toilets have no more than two flies buzzing around and no more than two pieces of discarded trash to be picked up each half hour, China Daily reported.

Xue Guomin, head of the sanitation management division, told the Beijing Evening News the new rules, which also ask workers to ensure facilities are equipped to cater to the elderly and disabled, are optional and aim to improve the cleanliness of the city’s public bathrooms.

Daddy dearest’ Brad Pitt won’t become a dad, says Anna Kendrick

LOS ANGELES, 26 May — Actor Alec Baldwin is reportedly planning to tie the knot with fiancee Hilaria Thomas after finishing shooting his documentary on Cannes Film Festival.

The “30 Rock” star had proposed to Thomas earlier this year and subsequently hinted that they were planning to get married in September. Baldwin is likely to exchange vows with Thomas at a secret location in Europe.

“They’ve been telling people they’ll be spending time in Europe, and there’s speculation they’re going to get married,” nypost.com quoted an insider as saying.

Brad Pitt

‘No, not a chance. It makes sense on some level, but I really enjoy being a creative producer and I enjoy my day job (as an actor). It’s enough for me,’ Contactmusic quoted him as saying when asked if he’d ever consider taking on the position.

“I want to also be a dad, first and foremost. After two days it gets itchy, I miss them. I just know how I’d be, I see how much time it takes to mount the thing and put it together. It wouldn’t be a good match,” he added.

Kendall obsessed with chapsticks

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Barca routs Bilbao 3-0 for cup in Guardiola finale

MADRID, 26 May—Barcelona provided Pep Guardiola with the perfect sendoff by routing Athletic Bilbao 3-0 in the Copa del Rey final on Friday night, the Catalan club’s 14th trophy in four seasons under its most successful coach. Pedro Rodriguez scored in the third and 25th minutes, and Lionel Messi ended his record-setting season with his 73rd goal in the 20th minute. The Catalan club demonstrated the virtues the marked Guardiola’s four seasons in charge — quick-touching passing, intricate combinations and clinical finishing.

Barcelona’s record 26th domestic cup gave the bitter-sweet season some shine as its fourth title of the season made up some for its failure to repeat as Champions League and Spanish league winners. “We had a good year, we won four titles and this winning up gives them better value,” Guardiola said. “I’m happy to close out the season this way.”

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga returns a ball to Novak Djokovic during their quarter-final match at the ATP Rome tournament on 18 May. Tsonga said on Friday he stood by his comments, made in Rome, that there was little or no hope this year of a Frenchman winning at Roland Garros for the first time since Yannick Noah in 1983.

Japan’s swimmer Terakawa lays down Olympic marker

TOKYO, 26 May—Japan’s Aya Terakawa clocked the world’s second fastest time of the season to win the women’s 100 metres backstroke at the Japan Open with 59.08 seconds on Friday, beating Shiho Sakai into second place.

“My team-mates gave the women’s 100m backstroke a very hard time in this meet, and I won,” Terakawa said. “I haven’t expected to swim a personal best,” said Terakawa, who was 0.09 seconds faster than the current world record set at the 50m mark in 28.62. “It was really tough at the last moment. I’m determined to swim 58.50s at the Olympics. You must be sure of the colour of the medal if you swim 58.90. I’ll try to control at the last moment.”

Japanese team head coach Norimasa Hirai said: “She showed she has the right attitude needed for the Olympics. She can now compete against Anastasia Zueva of Russia and Gao Chang of China.”

Santos, Universidade into semifinals on penalties

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 May—Defending champion Santos advanced to the semifinals of the Copa Libertadores on Thursday after defeating 10-man Velez Sarsfield on penalties. An Alan Kardec strike in the 78th minute cancelled out Velez’s 1-0 victory in the first leg and forced a penalty shootout at Santastadium. Kardec, Elano, Leo and Paulo Henrique Ganso each converted from the spot for Santos. Her incorrigible Santos missed the target and Emiliano Papa’s shot was saved by Rafael. Velez played most of the match a man short after keeper Marcelo Hahn was shown a straight red card for a reckless tackle on Neymar in the 40th minute. Santos now face Sao Paulo rivals and reigning Brazilian champions Corinthians in the semifinals.

Thierry Henry (R) of the New York Red Bulls carries the ball during a match on 23 May in Harrison, New Jersey. Henry has eclipsed David Beckham as the highest-paid player in Major League Soccer after Beckham took a pay cut to stay with the Los Angeles Galaxy this season, according to figures released by the player’s union on Friday. / Reuters

Henry eclipses Beckham as MLS top earner

NEW YORK, 26 May—Thierry Henry has eclipsed David Beckham as the highest-paid player in Major League Soccer after Beckham took a pay cut to stay with the Los Angeles Galaxy this season, according to figures released by the player’s union on Friday. The 34-year-old Henry, France’s all-time leading scorer, now tops the salary list at $3 million, compared to the $6.5 million Beckham earned in 2007, will draw $2.6 million (4.5 euro) in 2012 playing for the New York Red Bulls.

The figure for total compensation includes salary and some bonus payments guaranteed over the life of a contract. Henry’s Red Bulls teammate Rafael Marquez of Mexico — who like Henry joined the team in 2010 — is second at $4.6 million. Beckham had undergone the era of high-paid foreign imports in MLS when he first signed a five-year contract with the Galaxy in 2007, will make $4 million in total compensation this season, compared to the $6.5 million per year he made under his prior contract. / Reuters

Games giving “Brand Britain” an Asian boost

LONDON, 26 May—The London Olympics are giving “brand Britain” a fillip in China and India, a survey indicated on Saturday, boosting the UK government’s ambition of attracting an extra one billion pounds of inward investment and trade. Publicity surrounding the Games has resulted in nearly 80 percent of those Chinese and Indians questioned saying they were more likely to want to visit Britain. They were more likely to buy the cash, lured by the UK’s luxury brands and fashion stores, with 63 percent of Chinese and 60 percent of Indians saying they would buy more British goods, professional services provider Deloitte said. / Reuters

A spectator shelter under an umbrella with a London 2012 Olympics logo at the Olympic Park at Stratford, east London on 3 May. 2012. / Reuters

Klinsmann encouraging Dempsey to leave Fulham

CHICAGO, 26 May—US coach Jurgen Klinsmann is encouraging Clint Dempsey to leave Fulham and sign with a bigger club.

The 29-year-old Texan scored 17 Premier League goals and 23 overall this season, the best season by an American attacking player in England. Dempsey’s contract with Fulham has one year remaining. “His goal is the right goal,” Klinsmann said during a conference call Friday, a day before the Americans play an exhibition against Scotland. “If he has the...”
**Weather forecast for 27th May, 2012**

**Burma and Thailand**

A strong monsoon system is likely to develop in the Bay of Bengal, which is expected to bring widespread rain or thundershowers to the following regions:

- **Ayeyawady Region**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Chin State**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Kayin State**: Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Bago Region**: Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Lower Sagaing Region**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Upper Sagaing Region**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Mandalay Region**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Meiktila Region**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Nat Ma Taung Region**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Yangon Region**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (60%)
- **Nay Pyi Taw**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (60%)
- **Neighbouring Mandalay**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Neighbouring Yangon**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (60%)
- **Tenasserim Region**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Taninthayi Region**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Bordering Arakan**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Bordering Mon**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Bordering Shan**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Bordering Mon-Naing**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Boundary with Thailand**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
- **Neighboring Thailand**: Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
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Gymnasts’ road to London begins at US Classic

CHICAGO, 26 May—All eyes will be on Olympic champion Nastia Liukin at the US Classic. Martha Karolyi, however, will be keeping close watch on everybody. Make no mistake.

The national championships may be two weeks away and there’s still a month until the Olympic trials, but Saturday’s meet is the first step in the selection process for this summer’s London Games.

“It is in the back of your mind,” said Gabby Douglas, a member of the team that won the world title last year. “This is the Olympic year, and Martha’s watching us and every little thing we do.”

Because the format of team finals at the Olympics is so unforgiving, teams can’t be picked solely by the standings at nationals and trials.

Three gymnasts compete on each event in team finals and all three scores count, meaning one mistake or one low-scoring routine could be the difference between a gold medal and a consolation T-shirt. So Karolyi is already looking at everyone to see what combination of gymnasts will give her monster scores on each of the four events, and who she can count on to be consistent no matter the circumstance or the stage.

INTERNET

French Open champion Li Na wants to “remain the same”

PARIS, 26 May—French Open winner Li Na on Friday said she was focusing on the preparation for the first round’s games, reiterating her willingness to keep a normal life after winning the French title last season.

As the first Chinese to win a tennis grand slam title, Li Na said she witnessed a tough experience after her victory in the French Open and she could not “do the same as before.” “I really want to remain the same. But, it’s tough for me because after I won last year my life changed.”

So I had to change some things,” Li Na said on Roland Garros website. “I think because I was the first Chinese player win a Grand Slam, so many people thought she’s not normal,” she added.

Li became the favourite sport figure in China and she has been officially honoured by the Chinese government for her unprecedented win of Grand Slam singles title. The 30-year-old tennis player will meet Romanian Sorana Cirstea in the first game.—Xinhua

INTERNET

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (26-5-2012)

Shwegyin 6.57 inches
Puung 1.77 inches
MyaukU 1.50 inches
Kengtung 1.34 inches
Thaton 1.22 inches