

Kataññuta, gratitude towards the grateful; this is the way to auspiciousness

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True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone 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.

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * Strengthening of national solidarity
- * Building and strengthening of discipline-flourishing democracy system
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accordance with the Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Building of modern industrialized nation through the agricultural development, and all-round development of other sectors of the economy
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investment from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Flourishing of Union Spirit, the true patriotism
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Mines Minister calls for putting on display rare jewellery at Museum

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik met with Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and officials at Myanmar Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) here yesterday.

He called for recording date of production, location of the jewellery, estimated value and maker; discovering items of rare jewellery and showcasing them at the museum; and arranging to sell replicas of displayed items at jewellery shops.

In the evening, the minister visited Myanmar Gems Enterprise and Myanmar Pearl Enterprise offices and viewed staff doing office works. He also inspected progress in construction of ManiYadana Jade Hall.

MNA

Mines Minister U Thein Htaik at Myanmar Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

MNA



Eighth Rakhine Traditional Thingyan (Yangon) sandalwood grinding competition.

PAGE 9

Winners of the Binibining Pilipinas 2011 (Miss Philippines) blow kisses during the coronation night awarding ceremony in Quezon City, Philippines, on 11 April, 2011. The Binibining Pilipinas pageant crowned early Monday its newest beauty queens who will represent the country to attend international beauty competitions.



PAGE 12



Seven killed, three injured in east China building fire

PAGE 10

New station hospital put into service in Kani Village, Pyapon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — The opening ceremony of a station hospital (16-bed) donated by Yuzana Co Ltd and well-wishers took place at Kani Village in Pyapon Township in Ayeyawady Region this morning.

It was attended by Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Deputy Health Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin,

Region Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Myint and officials concerned.

On the occasion, Chief Director of Yuzana Co Ltd Wunna Kyaw Htin U Htay Myint handed over documents relating to the hospital to the deputy health minister who accepted cash

(See page 8)

Kachin State Land Records Department to compile accurate statistics

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Kachin State Land Records Department of Land Records Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will start compiling accurate statistics of land, map, land records and farmland.

Agriculture and Forestry Minister U Bi Htaw Zong addressed ceremony

to launch the activity and Head of State Land Records Department U Hsan Win explained the compilation process. Township LRD heads and staff will go on field trips to 34 wards and villages in Myitkyina Township from 19 April to 18 May for data compilation.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 13 April, 2011

Happiness to all in Thingyan Festival

It is fine in Tagu, the first month of the Myanmar Calendar. In the month, temperature soars, but trees in forests and on mountain ranges ease the hot weather.

Once there are showers of rain, Padauk Flower, the symbol of Thingyan Festival, is in bloom. In the period, other seasonal flowers such as Gangaw and Yinkhat are also in full bloom, which is the sign of ushering in the Myanmar New Year and saying goodbye to the old year.

Maha Thingyan Festival is celebrated nationwide in Tagu in which natural sceneries of forests and mountain ranges are at the peak with various species of colourful seasonal flowers. Of the festivals held in the 12 months, Thangyan Festival is the longest, the grandest and the merriest.

In Tagu, the sunlight is glaring, and what the people want most is cold water. Therefore, the people pour cold water and scented water onto each other and one another. Water throwers and those who got wet with water are both pleased with the traditional activities.

We should preserve the fine traditions by showing loving-kindness for each other and purifying each other's sins in the old year in participating in the Water Festival. Moreover, we have to honour the Dos and Don'ts issued for merrymakers during the period.

Thingyan Festival is the festival in which the entire people enjoy themselves, splashing water one another. We wish every happiness and a good time to all in the most welcoming Thingyan Festival.

Myanmar see 138 fires in March

YANGON, 12 April—Altogether 138 fires broke out across Myanmar in March — 107 due to negligence, 9 due to hot weather, five due to electric short circuit, 9 arsons and 8 forest fires.

The disasters burnt down 767 dwellings and buildings and three warehouses, leaving 3654 homeless, 7 dead and 5 wounded.

Statistics show that Sagaing Region and Mandalay Region faced fires most, followed by Magway Region and Kachin State. In order of value of the materials ravaged in fires, Rakhine State stands top, and Sagaing Region and Magway Region, second and third.

The Fire Services Department is taking preventive measures, raising public awareness, giving educative talks about fire and organizing fire drills. But, the people have not honoured the rules and regulations about fire fully yet, which is the major cause of fire.—MNA

Peoples' Dharma

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Fourteen International Airlines running in Myanmar



Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung inspects Yangon International Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—There are 14 international airlines currently flying in Myanmar and there was arrival and departure of 1.2 million passengers this year, up 27% than that of last year.

Myanmar earned 64.33 million US dollars as service fee in 2009-2010 for navigating 0.15 million aircrafts a year out of 420 daily flying over its airspace.

Department of Civil Aviation in a bid to develop civil aviation sector has been engaging in airway sectors: air transport, airway safety, communications, arrangements for future navigation system, annual check on mechanical

strength of aircrafts, flying checking, airway security, and upgrading of 32 airports.

Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung viewed work processes at Yangon Central Airway Control Station of Yangon International Airport on 10 April.

The minister viewed security system in departure and arrival halls, passport checking, radiation monitoring for passengers who come with transit tour from Japan and X-ray checking system and visited Air KBZ, Air Bagan, Air Mandalay and Asia Wing.

He then met service personnel at Yangon Central Airway Control Station.—MNA



Prize presentation of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister's Trophy Football Tournament held

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—The final match of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister's Trophy Inter-township U-19 Football Tournament took place at the region stadium on 10 April.

In the final between Dawei Township and Launglon Township, the former beat the latter to secure the first place. Chief Minister U Khin Zaw presented the trophy to Dawei Township team and Region Minister for Education and Health U Win Swe awarded those who won best player awards.—MNA

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Khin Zaw presents championship trophy to Dawei Township team.—MNA

UMFCCI holds courses concluding ceremony

YANGON, 12 April — Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry presented certificates to those who completed Office Management Course, Higher Certificate Course for Sales and Marketing, Higher Certificate Course in Sale Management and Marketing Management,

Business English, Certificate Course for Basic Japanese (II) Language and Business Japanese Language and Computerized Accounting MYOB (Level II) and (Level III) Courses at its office on 10 April.

The UMFCCI Vice-President addressed the ceremony and Human Resources Development Committee Chairman Dr Myo Thet explained the purpose of conducting the courses. The courses were attended by 313 trainees.

MNA

Six killed, eight wounded in bomb attacks near Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 12 April—Five soldiers and a woman were killed and eight people wounded in separate bomb attacks in west of Baghdad on Tuesday, a local police source told *Xinhua*.

In early hours of the day, gunmen blew up bombs in the house of an Awakening Council group member in Abu Ghraib area, some 20 km west of Baghdad, and destroyed parts of the house, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The group member survived the attack as he was not at home when the attack took place, but his house was partially destroyed and his wife was killed, the source said.

Two of the group member sons and two women inside the house were also wounded by the blasts, the source added.

Afterwards, a roadside bomb went off as an Iraqi army force rushed to the scene, damaging a military vehicle and killing three soldiers aboard, he said, adding that two more soldiers were also wounded by the blast.

The Awakening Council group, or al-Sahwa in Arabic, consists of paramilitary groups, including some powerful anti-US Sunni militant groups, who turned their rifles against the al-Qaeda network after the latter exercised indiscriminate killings against both Shiite and Sunni Muslim communities.

Separately, a roadside bomb struck an Iraqi army patrol in Abu Ghraib area, close to the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, destroying a military vehicle and killing two soldiers aboard and wounding two others, the source said.

Xinhua



A man who was wounded in a bomb attack lies at a hospital in the west of Baghdad on 11 April, 2011.

INTERNET



The remains of a vehicle used in a bomb attack is seen at the site of the blast in Falluja, west of Baghdad on 11 April, 2011.

Two bombs exploded near a crowded market in the Iraqi city of Falluja on Monday, killing up to six people and wounding about two dozen others, security and hospital sources said.

INTERNET

Hamas releases rocket footage

BEIJING, 12 April— Hamas has released video footage showing what it says are rockets being fired from Gaza towards Israel.

The footage, which Hamas says was shot on Saturday, includes a caption in Arabic which reads: "two rockets being launched towards Sufa military base". Sufa is a base on the Israeli-

Gaza border. However, despite recent exchanges, high profile political leaders and militants in Gaza have expressed their wish to maintain a ceasefire.

Mushir Al- Masri, Hamas Official, said, "We confirm that there is an agreement between Palestinian factions on the issue of a truce. We are committed to a truce

as long as Israel commits itself to it. Over the coming hours we will show this direction. We are monitoring the situation on the ground and any violation from the Zionist enemy will of course return the situation to how it was before. It will leave the Israelis responsible for the results of any escalation."—*Xinhua*

Gunmen kill ethnic leader in Karachi, Pakistan

KARACHI, 12 April—Unidentified gunmen shot dead a key leader of an opposition ethnic group in southern Pakistan's port city of Karachi, police said Tuesday.

Akhar Hussain, central leader of Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM- Haqiqi), along with another leader of the group, died Monday when gunmen riding two motorcycles opened fire on their car at Tariq Road locality in the city, police officer Amir Farooqi said.

The assailants fled after the attack. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Two other persons in the car and two passersby were injured who were shifted to hospital.

Farooqi said that the slain men were coming from a meeting the group's detained leaders at a Karachi prison. The MQM-Haqiqi is a splinter group of the powerful Muttahida Qaumi Movement, the Urdu-speaking ethnic group. They have migrated from India after creation of Pakistan in 1947.

The MQM-Haqiqi and Mutahida Qaumi Movement have been bitter rivals ever since the former faction split from the main party in the '90s.

The Muttahida retained its position as the main voice of the Urdu-speaking people with majority parliamentary seats in Karachi and Hyderabad, another major city in southern Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital.

Karachi has been in the grip of sectarian and political violence in recent months, claiming many lives. Rival groups blame each other for target killings in the city of some 18 million people.

Xinhua

Afghan forces capture Taliban shadowy district governor

GHAZNI, 12 April —Afghan forces backed by NATO-led troops captured a Taliban shadowy governor in Ghazni province 125 km south of capital Kabul on Tuesday, an official said. "Our forces backed by international troops arrested Mullah Abdul Ali the shadowy governor of Ajristan district early today morning," an Afghan army officer in the province Dilawar Shah Wafa told *Xinhua*.

There were no casualties on the side of troops during the operation, the officer contended.

Meantime, Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit in talks with media via telephone from undisclosed location confirmed the operation but added the arrested man was an ordinary Taliban fighter and not a district governor.

Taliban militants have intensified their activities in Ghazni province over the past couple of years.

Xinhua



An Afghan policeman stands guard near the wreckage of a burned-out vehicle in Mazar-i-Sharif recently.—INTERNET

Armed assailants rob newspaper in southern Mexico

VILLAHERMOSA, 12 April—An official at a newspaper in southern Mexico says four armed men rushed into the newsroom, then gagged and beat up reporters and photographers and stole computers, cameras and money.

The official at the Avance in the city of Villahermosa in Tabasco state says a reporter and a photographer who arrived during the robbery were beaten by the assailants.

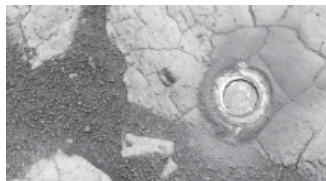
The official says the robbery took place Monday afternoon. He says no threats against the newspaper's contents were made and he believes the assault was only a robbery and not an act of intimidation.—*Internet*

Manizheh, front, and 6 year old Moein carry drinking water to their home in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 11 April, 2011.—INTERNET



Science

Mars Rover's 'Gagarin' moment applauded exploration



NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity used its rock abrasion tool on a rock informally named "Gagarin" during the 401st and 402nd Martian days, or sols, of the rover's work on Mars (March 10 and 11, 2005).—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 12 April—A flat, light-toned rock on Mars visited by NASA's Mars Exploration Rover in 2005 informally bears the name of the first human in space, Yuri Gagarin, who rode into orbit in the Soviet Union's Vostok-1 spacecraft on 12 April, 1961.

The team using Opportunity to explore the Meridiani Planum region of Mars since 2004 chose "Gagarin" for what they would call the rock that the rover examined beside "Vostok" crater. A target for close-up examination on Gagarin is called "Yuri." To commemorate Gagarin's flight, a colour image of the rock on Mars has been posted at <http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/>

PIA13984. The image combines frames taken through three different filters by Opportunity's panoramic camera.

Early accomplishments in the Space Age inspired many of the researchers exploring other planets robotically today, who hope their work can, in turn, help inspire the next generation.

"The 50th anniversary of mankind's first fledgling foray into the cosmos should serve as an important reminder of the spirit of adventure and exploration that has propelled mankind throughout history," said Mars rover science team member James Rice of NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre, Greenbelt, Md.

Internet

Scientists find way to map brain's complexity

LONDON, 12 April— Scientists say they have moved a step closer to developing a computer model of the brain after finding a way to map both the connections and functions of nerve cells in the brain together for the first time.

In a study in the journal *Nature* on Sunday, researchers from Britain's University College London (UCL) described a technique developed in mice which enabled them to combine information about the function of neurons with details of their connections.

The study is part of an emerging area of neuroscience research known as



A laboratory assistant holds one hemisphere of a healthy brain in the Morphological unit of psychopathology in the Neuropsychiatry division of the Belle Idée University Hospital in Chene-Bourg near Geneva 14 March, 2011.—INTERNET

'connectomics'. A little like genomics, which maps our genetic make-up, connectomics aims to map the brain's connections, known as synapses.

By untangling and being able to map these connections — and deciphering how information flows through the brain's circuits — scientists hope to understand how thoughts and perceptions are generated in the brain and how these functions go wrong in diseases such as Alzheimer's, schizophrenia and stroke.—Internet

Effect of noise on marine life studied

BARCELONA, 12 April— It's not just mammals like dolphins and whales that suffer from human-generated ocean noise pollution — squid and octopuses do too, Spanish researchers say.

Researchers at the Technical University of Catalonia in Barcelona say experiments show the balancing organs of cephalopods like squid, cuttlefish and octopuses are so badly damaged by marine noise pollution they become practically immobile, and the effect seems permanent, NewScientist.com reported Monday. The experiments lend credence to the suspicion that "ear" damage in nine giant squid that unexpectedly washed up on Spanish beaches in 2001 and 2003 had been caused by low-frequency sounds from nearby seismic surveys for oil and gas.—Internet



Technology

The greenest car you've (likely) never heard of

GREENSBURG, 12 April—The greenest car you've likely never heard of will soon be hitting Honda showrooms across the United States as the Japanese automaker expands sales of its compressed natural gas powered Civic.

Honda has been quietly winning green car awards for more than a decade as it cautiously introduced the Civic GX first to government and business fleet owners and then retail customers in a handful of test markets.

The nationwide retail launch set for this fall comes as US President Barack Obama pushes for wider adoption of fuel-efficient vehicles — including mandating that all federal cars will need to run on alternative, hybrid or electric power by 2015.

Potential customers could also be lured by substantial cost savings as oil prices climb amid tensions in the Middle East and natural gas prices fall in the wake of major new discoveries in the United States.

But the Civic GX enters a crowded field where new plug-in hybrid and fully electric cars — the Chevy Volt and Nissan Leaf — are grabbing

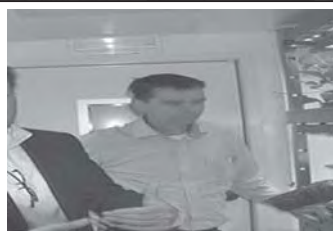
headlines and zippy new compact cars offer competitive fuel economy.

Honda's goals are relatively modest — doubling sales to around 4,000 vehicles in the first year of national sales while Nissan is hoping to hit annual US sales of 20,000 Leafs — but it still thinks the GX can compete.

"We're asking the GX purchaser to make far fewer sacrifices than any other alternative fuel vehicle," Eric Rosenberg, who heads Honda's alternative fuel vehicle programme in the United States.—Internet



The Honda Civic GX 4DR, a natural Gas vehicle, at a car show in Los Angeles.—INTERNET



Gertjan Meeuws, left, and John van Gemert, right, of PlantLab, a private research company, during an interview with The Associated Press in a lab where he is growing herbs and vegetables under LED lights in Den Bosch, central Netherlands, Thursday, on 24 March, 2011.—INTERNET

Future farm: A sunless, rainless room indoors

DEN BOSCH, 12 April— Farming is moving indoors, where the sun never shines, where rainfall is irrelevant and where the climate is always right.

The perfect crop field could be inside a windowless building with meticulously controlled light, temperature, humidity, air quality and nutrition. It could be in a New York high-rise, a Siberian bunker, or a sprawling complex in the Saudi desert.

Advocates say this, or something like it, may be an answer to the

world's food problems.

"In order to keep a planet that's worth living on, we have to change our methods," says Gertjan Meeuws, of PlantLab, a private research company.

The world already is having trouble feeding itself. Half the people on Earth live in cities, and nearly half of those — about 3 billion — are hungry or malnourished. Food prices, currently soaring, are buffeted by droughts, floods and the cost of energy required to plant, fertilize, harvest and transport it.

And prices will only get more unstable. Climate change makes long-term crop planning uncertain. Farmers in many parts of the world already are draining available water resources to the last drop. And the world is getting more crowded: by mid-century, the global population will grow from 6.8 billion to 9 billion, the UN predicts.

To feed so many people may require expanding farmland at the expense of forests and wilderness, or finding ways to radically increase crop yields.—Internet



Health

Bugs emerge to bug us, and a few pose health risks



A live Brown Recluse Spider crawls in a dish at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History in Washington, 30 March, 2011.
INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 12 April—It's that time of year when the bugs emerge to bug us.

Some can pose real threats — Lyme disease from tiny ticks, West Nile virus from mosquitoes, or life-threatening allergic reactions to bee stings. But most bug bites in this country are an itchy nuisance.

How itchy or big the welt depends in part on your own skin, how much of the chemical histamine it harbors. Yes, some people really are mosquito magnets. And no, most of the bites people blame on spiders aren't from them at all.

In fact, chances are you won't be

able to tell the culprit unless you catch it in the act. Yet doctors and entomologists alike field calls asking, "What bit me?"

"People call up really bummed out," says spider expert Jonathan Coddington of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, who points to just two worrisome types in the US, the black widow and brown recluse family. Spider phobia, he says, is "out of all proportion to actual risk."

Internet

Health tip: Spot warning signs of low blood sugar

Hypoglycemia is the medical term for low blood glucose, common among people with diabetes. It can occur even when you're trying hard to manage your blood sugar levels.

The American Diabetes Association says while you can't always prevent hypoglycemia, you can take steps to treat it if you know the warning signs:

- * Sweating or turning pale.
- * Feeling dizzy or shaking.
- * Developing a headache.
- * Feeling hungry.
- * Showing moodiness, or rapid behavior changes.
- * Moving awkwardly or clumsily.
- * Having a seizure.
- * Acting confused, or having problems paying attention.
- * Having a tingly feeling around the mouth.—Internet

Child cancer survivor: Fatigue, sleep woes

MEMPHIS, 12 April—Survivors of childhood cancer may have sleep and fatigue problems that can impair memory and cognition, US researchers suggest.

Study corresponding author Kevin Krull and St Jude Children's Research Hospital investigators say the study involved 1,426 survivors of brain and central nervous system tumours, leukemia and lymphoma from 1970 to 1986 when they were age 20 or younger, and 384 healthy siblings.

The study, scheduled to be published in the journal *Cancer*, found those particularly vulnerable for neurocognitive problems were age 6 and younger when their cancer was found, or whose treatment included high-dose cranial irradiation, steroids or anti-metabolites, chemotherapy agents.

"While no one functions quite as well when sleep deprived or fatigued, most adults get by. But that is not always the case for survivors, who might already be at greater risk for neurocognitive problems as a result of their cancer treatment," Krull says in a statement.—Internet



Fallen maple tree leaves are pictured during autumn in India 2010. Researchers have identified compounds in maple syrup with similar anti-inflammatory or anti-oxidant properties as blueberries, green tea and other "superfoods," they said Friday.—INTERNET



Business



Drivers of Nissan's electric Leaf report problems

TOKYO, 12 April—Japanese auto giant Nissan on Monday said customers in the United States and Japan had reported problems restarting their all-electric Leaf vehicles after switching the motor off.

"Some customers have reported problems restarting the car after it has stopped," a Nissan spokesman said.

"We are studying the cause of the problem,"

the spokesman said, adding that the fault posed no accident risk.

Nissan's launch of the Leaf in Japan and the United States in December was seen as a bet on drivers' readiness to embrace the first globally mass-produced electric car. The Leaf — short for Leading Environmentally-friendly Affordable Family car — enjoyed a crescendo of industry buzz in the build-up to its launch and was the

first electric vehicle to win European Car of the Year. The Japanese automaker received 6,000 pre-sale orders in Japan and 20,000 in the United States.

Nissan and its French partner Renault have staked their future on electric vehicles and plan to launch several models by 2014 to meet rapidly rising demand for more environmentally-friendly methods of transport.

Internet



Nissan's electric Leaf car is seen at a press conference last year. Japanese auto giant Nissan says customers in the United States and Japan have reported problems restarting their all-electric Leaf vehicles after switching the motor off.—INTERNET

Japan quake's economic impact worse than first feared

TOKYO, 12 April—Japan's economics minister warned on Tuesday that the economic damage from last month's earthquake and tsunami is likely to be worse than initially thought as power shortages will crimp factory output and restrict supply chains.

The more sober assessment came as Japan raised the severity of its nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant to a level 7 from 5, putting it on par with the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986.

The Bank of Japan governor said the economy was in a "severe state," while central bankers were uncertain when efforts to rebuild the tsunami-ravaged northeast would boost growth, according to minutes from a meeting held three days after a record earthquake struck Japan on 11 March.

The government and main opposition party have agreed to a spending package to get some reconstruction work started, but setting a large additional budget will be difficult due to Japan's large debt burden.

Reuters



French car maker PSA Peugeot Citroen said Monday it would invest 130 million euros (\$187 million) to launch the production of a new model at its Slovak plant.

INTERNET

Peugeot to invest 130 Mn euros in Slovakia

BRATISLAVA, 12 April—French car maker PSA Peugeot Citroen said Monday it would invest 130 million euros (\$187 million) to launch the production of a new model at its Slovak plant.

"The production of a new model will be launched in 2012 and it will be a new Peugeot model," PSA chief executive Philippe Varin said as he announced the sum.

He did not specify the car type.

"The investment will create 900

new jobs in Slovakia," he added.

The plant, employing 3,000 people and currently operating in two shifts, plans to launch a third shift and reach its full operational capacity of 300,000 units a year in 2012, said Varin.

Speaking alongside Varin, Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radicova hailed the move. "The investment and new jobs for people are good news for Slovakia amid the lingering global downturn," she said.—Internet

Google invests \$168 million in solar power plant

WASHINGTON, 12 April— Google said Monday it has invested \$168 million to help complete the construction of one of the world's biggest solar energy power plants in California's Mojave Desert.

The plant, which is being developed by BrightSource Energy, will generate 392 gross

megawatts (MW) of clean solar energy when it is completed in 2013, enough to supply power to 85,000 homes a year.

"That's the equivalent of taking more than 90,000 cars off the road over the lifetime of the plant, projected to be more than 25 years," Google's director of green business operations Rick Needham said in a blog

post.

"The investment makes business sense and will help ensure that one of the world's largest solar energy projects is completed," Needham said. The US Department of Energy said meanwhile that it has finalized \$1.6 billion in loan guarantees to support the Ivanpah Solar Energy Generating System.—Internet



A couple sit in front of tulips while taking photos of themselves in a park of Wuhan, capital city of central China's Hubei Province, on 10 April, 2011. As weather warms up, people here go out to enjoy the spring.

XINHUA

11-year-old Australian charged with car theft

SYDNEY, 12 April — An 11-year-old boy has been charged after a car was stolen in Sydney, a media report said Sunday.

A green Hyundai Excel was allegedly stolen from the Lilyfield road Thursday. The car was found Friday and the boy was arrested Sunday.

Witnesses told police they saw four children inside the car, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported, quoting Australian news agency AAP.

He was charged on one count of being carried in a conveyance without the consent of the owner. The boy was granted strict bail conditions to appear at Bidura Childrens Court 2 May.—Internet



A parking fee taker puts timing voucher on a vehicle in Beijing, capital of China, 31 March, 2011. Beijing will raise daytime parking fee of non-residential area from 1 April to smooth traffic jam of the city. Timing unit of parking fee will be shortened to 15 minutes.

XINHUA

Australia suffering from women brain drain

SYDNEY, 12 April — The Australian economy was suffering because women scientists do not receive the same opportunity as their male peers resulting in brain drain, a top scientist has said.

A conference is being held in Canberra to investigate into the causes of women brain drain, the AAP news agency reported.

"We're going to lose economic prosperity and opportunities of human ability to really contribute, to deal with the main issues that are facing Australia and the rest of the world," Cathy Foley, president of the Australian Institute of Physics, was quoted as saying by ABC.

"There's a need for real investment in looking at what are the issues that stop women from working regularly in science," she said.

Once women get into the workforce they are "not promoted" or dealt with in the same way as their male colleagues, she said.

"We're seeing them leave or do other things or just not participate at all."

Internet

Danes free 18 hostages held by Somali pirates

COPENHAGEN, 12 April— Danish naval officials say one of its assault teams freed 16 Pakistanis and two Iranians held by suspected Somali pirates.

Navy spokesman Kenneth Nielsen says three pirates were wounded in a firefight with Danish commandos after they boarded the vessel off Somalia's coast on 2 April. Nielsen says the team was backed by a helicopter.

Nielsen said the operation targeted an Iranian fishing boat that the pirates had used as a mothership. They also seized weapons and equipment.

Nielsen says the wounded were treated by doctors.

The pirates are being held on *Esbern Snare*, a Danish ship that is part of NATO's counter-piracy

A pirate boat pictured in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia.
INTERNET



force. Nielsen said there is no decision about what to do with those captured.

Internet

Landslides kill four people in Colombia

BOGOTA, 12 April — At least four people died due to landslides in Colombia Sunday after several poor neighbourhood, located on the outskirts of the north-central city of Medellin, were crushed due to it, local authorities said.

The landslide destroyed five housing complexes early Sunday after soils in the mountainous area gave in to two days of torrential rains. Authorities fear the toll will rise, *Xinhua* Monday quoted Camilo Zapata, director of the municipal prevention and disaster attention System (Simpad) as saying.

Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos had 15 days prior to Sunday's landslide had alerted for landslides after the last month's sharp increase in rains which regularly cause deadly landslides in this South American country.

This year's rainy season in Colombia has been more intense than normal.

A large number of villages are located in marginal areas which are affected by landslides and flooding due to their proximity to a number of major rivers.

In Colombia, following rains, so far 307 people have died and 65 people are still missing in 2011. The rains have destroyed 7,454 and damaged 364,000 houses.

Last year, 319 Colombians were killed and 2.4 million people had been affected by landslides and flooding.

Internet



Contestants show their skills in the stir-frying of the Longjing (Dragon Well) Tea during a tea fair held in Xinchang County, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 11 April, 2011. A tea fair kicked off in Xinchang on Monday, with the participation of tea experts, scholars and noted tea enterprises across the country.

INTERNET

Microsoft attacks Google over security

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 April —Microsoft Corp is lashing out at Google Inc, extending hostilities between two of the most prominent corporations in the technology industry. Microsoft claimed Google has been misleading customers about the security certification of its suite of software programmes for governments. Microsoft's deputy general counsel, David Howard, blogged on Monday about a newly unsealed court document that shows that "Google Apps for Government" hasn't been certified under the Federal Information Security Management Act.

Google's website claims it has, and the company has attested to that in court documents. "It's time for Google to stop telling governments something that is not true," Howard wrote.—Internet

School shooting rekindles gun debate in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 April—Brazil's Senate President Jose Sarney on Monday called for another referendum on gun control after a school massacre killed 12 children on Thursday.

Sarney said he would propose a bill for a new referendum to be held as soon as possible. Last week, he called for "zero tolerance" for guns in Brazil.

In 2003, Brazil approved the Disarmament Statute, which foresaw a referendum on guns. In a referendum in 2005, about two-thirds of Brazilians voted against gun

possession and sales in the country.

The massacre in a Rio de Janeiro public school, however, rekindled the debate in Brazil, with several groups calling for tighter gun control.

In one of the worst shooting sprees in Brazil, Wellington Menezes de Oliveira, 23, gunned down at least 12 students on Thursday in a public school in Rio's western region before he shot himself.

Four days after the massacre, 10 children who were injured in the shooting still remain in hospital, two of them with grave wounds.

Internet



A statue of Chinese ancient philosopher Confucius (551 BC-479 BC) and other statues are displayed in a yard of a white marble factory in Dashiwo town, Fangshan District, 70 km (43 miles) from Beijing on 11 April, 2011.—INTERNET



Cuban car enthusiasts look at an old car during a Classic cars rally in Havana, Cuba, on 7 April, 2011. INTERNET

Indonesia, Saudi Arabia agree on defence cooperation

JAKARTA, 12 April—The governments of Indonesia and Saudi Arabia have agreed to work together in the field of defence, encompassing defence-related education and training, personnel exchange and developing defence industries in both countries, local media reported here on Tuesday.

Indonesian Deputy Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin and Prince Khalid bin Sultan of Saudi Arabia signed the agreement during Sjafrie's visit to Saudi Arabia. "Both parties will soon form a working group or military joint committee that will be tasked to identify areas of cooperation," a statement released by the ministry said.

The first meeting will be held in June and a memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed in December, local media said.—Xinhua

Cuba reports 1 M tourists in Q1

HAVANA, 12 April—Cuba registered the arrival of one million tourists in the first quarter of 2011, the Ministry of Tourism reported Monday.

The figure represents an increase of 10.4 percent compared with the same period in 2010.

The ministry said in a statement the rise was attributed to more tourists from Canada, Russia, Argentina, Britain, Chile, Poland, Venezuela and Belgium.

The ministry also said the revival of cruise operations since last November had provided an important boost to the tourism industry. The cruise industry resumed after a three-year standstill caused by ongoing travel restrictions by the United States.

Cuba expects to receive 2.7 million tourists in 2011, up from 2.5 million in 2010. The

tourism industry is worth about 2.221 billion US dollars in foreign exchange revenues and is Cuba's second largest economic activity after the export of professional services to other countries.

The development and diversification of tourism is included in the economic reforms initiated by Cuban leader, Raul Castro, and aimed at lifting Cuba out of the economic crisis that has affected the island's economy in the past 20 years.—Xinhua

Indonesian gov't pursuing diplomacy to free hostages

JAKARTA, 12 April—Indonesia is opting to stick to diplomacy and negotiations, and is refraining from a rescue mission, in an attempt to free 20 Indonesian sailors held hostage by Somali pirates, local media reported here on Tuesday.

"All options are possible, but we prioritized the hostages' safety," Indonesian Military (TNI) chief Adm Agus Suhartono said in Jakarta on Monday.

He added that India had offered to assist in a rescue mission, but the government decided against it from fears it would instead threaten the safety of the hostages.

The government decided in the meantime to do as the captain of the seized, Indonesian-flagged vessel, *Sinar Kudus*, had requested and pursue diplomatic measures, Agus was quoted by the *Jakarta Post* as saying.

He refused to comment on whether or not the TNI had sent a rescue mission into Somali waters, where the ship and crew were taken hostage en route from Indonesia to Rotterdam, the Netherlands, to deliver ferronickel belonging to state mining company PT Aneka Tambang.—Internet

S Korean PM leaves for China for talks

SEOUL, 12 April—South Korean Prime Minister Kim Hwang-sik left on Tuesday for China for talks with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

The prime minister's office has said Kim and Wen are expected to discuss strengthening the strategic partnership relationship between Seoul and Beijing and expanding economic and trade ties.

Kim's official trip, slated for 12-15 April, will involve a courtesy visit to President Hu Jintao and bring him to the Boao Forum for Asia, a non-profit regional economic forum that kicks off in the southern Chinese city of Boao on 14 April.

His trip will mark the fifth official visit to China by a South Korean prime minister.

Xinhua

Colombia, Venezuela on track to restore bilateral ties

BOGOTA, 12 April—Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and his Venezuelan counterpart Hugo Chavez signed 16 bilateral agreements Saturday after talks, a clear sign that diplomatic ties between the two neighbours are improving after years of tensions, analysts said.

Santos and Chavez met in the Colombian city of Cartagena for seven hours, focusing on trade and anti-drug cooperation between the two countries.

"They've taken an important step by signing these agreements," political analyst Fernando Giraldo told Xinhua on Sunday.

Xinhua



Nepalese devotees pull an ancient chariot during the Nepalese New Year festival celebrations in Bhaktapur on the outskirts of Katmandu, Nepal, on 10 April, 2011.—INTERNET

SWRR Minister gives instruction on taking fire preventive measures



Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi giving necessary instructions to officials at Nay Pyi Taw Fire Services Department.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi yesterday evening met Director Ye Kyaw Thu Yethura U Than Kyaw Kyaw and officials concerned,

and instructed them to try their best in serving their duties and to become reliable persons for the Fire Services Department as well as for the public. Afterwards, the minister carried on his

instruction to keep on fire preventive measures more and more during Water Festival days and enjoyed a wet drill staged by fire services members.

MNA

New station hospital...

(from page 1)
donations amounted K 26.77 million donated by Yuzana Co Ltd, a senior monk of Kani Village Parahita Monastery and Kani villagers.

Then, the region chief minister looked into river banking retaining work site of Pyilongchantha Thazi Pagoda.

At the meeting with District/Township Administrators, departmental heads, staff, social

organization members and locals at Thiri Annawa Hall in Pyapon, the region chief minister and family donated K10 million, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Myitkyina U Thein Zaw, K 25 million, Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan and family, K 5 million, Deputy Health Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and family, K 5 million, Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd Wunna Kyaw Htin U

Htay Myint and family, K 20 million, Chairman of Pyaephyokyaw Co Ltd Vice Chairman of Myanmar Hotel Entrepreneurs Association U Hla Maung Shwe and family, K 5 million, for all-round renovation of Pyilongchantha Thazi Pagoda. Then, he on 10 April evening inspected maintenance of Maubin-Hsamalauk road between Milepost 2/5 and 2/6, being repaired by Asia World Co Ltd.—MNA

Ayeyawady Foundation donates cash for quake victims

Chairman of Ayeyawady Foundation U Zaw Zaw donates cash through Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of Foreign Affairs Ministry Director-General Daw Yin Yin Myint.—MNA



YANGON, 12 April—Ayeyawady Foundation provided cash assistance to quake victims from Tahlay of Tachilek District in Shan State and

Japan, at Yangon Region Government's Office on Ahlon Road here yesterday. Chairman of Ayeyawady Foundation

U Zaw Zaw donated US\$ 30,000 for Japanese quake victims and K 30 million for Tahlay quake victims through responsible persons.—MNA



Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung inspects maintenance of Maubin-Hsamalauk road.—MNA

MWAF's tailoring course to start 25 April

YANGON, 12 April — Work Group on Promotion of Socio-economic of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation will open two-week tailoring course (2/2011) on 25 April.

The course will be conducted at Room No. (005), 5th Floor, Building (P), Setyone Road (between Sabei street and Aungthabye street), Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, from 10 am to 2 pm in weekdays.

Only 20 trainees will be accepted. Application forms are available at KISS Birani Shop at No. (10), Setyone Road, Mingala Taungnyunt and are to be submitted not later than 24 April.—MNA



Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Vice-Presidents U Win Aung, U Zaw Min Win, U Tun Aung and CEC members received Executive Director Mrs. Vasana Mututanont of International Affairs Bureau of Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) on 11 April.—MNA

260 drug-related cases exposed in March

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—A total of 260 drug-related cases—44.4968 kilo of heroin in 33 cases, 1.9672 kilo of opium in 75 cases, 10.5772 kilo of opium oil in 11 cases, 108.2362 kilo of low-grade opium in 43 cases, 6.7432 kilo of marijuana in 18 cases,

166408 stimulant tablets in 68 cases, 5.115 kilo of speciosa in four cases, one litre of opium liquid in one case, 0.006 kilo of ice in one case, 16840 diazepam tablets in one case, 50 kilo of pseudo ephedrine in one case, one bottle of morphine in one case, 2853 litres

of chemical liquid in one case, one other case and one case of failure to register—were exposed across the country in March 2011.

Action was taken against 408 persons—339 men and 66 women—in 260 cases.—MNA

Cash donations for quake-ravaged monasteries in Tahlay

YANGON, 12 April — A cash donation ceremony for the quake-ravaged monasteries in Tahlay of Tachilek, Shan State (East) was held at the relief camp in Ma An Khan Monastery in Monglin (West) village-tract this afternoon, attended by the Presiding Sayadaw of Sitagu World Buddha University in Sagaing, the Presiding Sayadaw of

Nagahnakaung Monastery in Tachilek and members of the Sangha and wellwishers.

Today's donation amounted to K 210 million. Eight monasteries which were seriously damaged in the quake were presented K 15 million each, other eight K 7.5 million each and five which caused minor damage K 6 million each.—MNA

Ministers Thura U Myint Maung, U Soe Maung visit Yesagyo

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung and Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung attended a ceremony to mark completion of Sinyin Buddha Reliquary in Sithushin Pagoda in Old Phakhangyi Town in Yesagyo Township yesterday.

The two ministers inspected construction of labour room and attended a ceremony to donate 1800-gallon capacity water tank and 14-unit washroom to basic education school (branch) in Sinchaung Village.

They donated a set of TV and DVD player to Yesagyo People's

Hospital for entertaining patients. They then met departmental personnel, ward and village administrators, and senior citizens of the township.

Minister Thura U Myint Maung visited Bagan International Theravada Buddha Research Dhamman Thabin in Bagan on 10 April. While visiting Sinmaye Village in Yesagyo Township, the minister provided publications to the village library and presented K 1 million for construction of a basic education high school (branch).

MNA

Deputy Livestock and Fishery Minister tours storm-hit areas

YANGON, 11 April—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye went to Ayeyawady Region on 9 and 10 April and provided cash assistance and fishing equipment to fishermen in storm-hit areas.

The deputy minister inspected the Institute of Fishery Science (Lower Myanmar) in Pyapon. At the meetings held with coastal and deep-sea fishery entrepreneurs at the

Fisheries Department in Pyapon District and with local fishery entrepreneurs and fishermen at Naukme Village in Ahmar Township, the deputy minister called for start of fishing works on schedule.

Next, he inspected the Shrimp Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Factory of U Than Tun in Naukme Village and the harvesting of Yaygyawthaing Chaunglay fishery lake in Bothagon.—MNA



Eighth Rakhine Traditional Thingyan (Yangon) sandalwood grinding competition in progress.
(News on page 16)

MNA

Kalay Township, a burgeoning...

(from page 16)

Sunfolar, Hsinshwekyia-2 and Mahuya strains with the output of 1,028,140 baskets, accounting for per acre yield of 27.63 baskets. Kalay Township's total sown acreage of edible oil crops in 2009-2010 was 93,607 and produced 2,569,829 baskets. Its edible oil supply was more than three times the demand.

Up to that time, the township had

never grown sunflower. Then, it launched a trial run of sunflower farming, getting sunflower seeds from Budalin Township. At that time, its sunflower output was only 28,541 baskets. For 2010-2011, it is pursuing the target of putting about 40,000 acres under sunflower.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 12-4-2011



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin at Traditional Sandalwood grinding competition. (News on page 16)—MNA

50,000 orchids shown at 3rd Inlay Myanma Orchid Show

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — The 3rd Inlay Myanma Orchid Show at the ground outside the City Hall in Nyaungshwe was concluded yesterday, exhibiting 50,000 orchids from 189 species.

The show was opened there on 9 April in the presence of Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Shan State

Economic Minister U Thauang Shwe and Chairperson of the committee for organizing the show Daw Tin Tin Yi.

Besides, Forest Department's booth on conservation of Inlay Lake and environmental conservation, photo exhibition on flowers and birds were set up and painting competition for youths were conducted at the show.

Paper reading session on environmental conservation and booming of tourism in Inlay area was held at Hupin Hotel in Nyaungshwe on 10 April.

Five resource persons read papers on impacts of climate change on life of Intha tribe, tourism, conservation of Inlay Lake and bio-diversity around the lake and answered the queries.—MNA

Aung Thein Than hosts Distributor Dinner Party

YANGON, 12 April — Aung Thein Than Co Ltd, agent of Caltex, AP lubricants, auto parts and auto equipments, hosted Distributor Dinner Party 2011 at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here on 9 April.

Company's Managing Director U Aye Tun selected 19 distributors who got top distribution records in promotion period for

Vietnam and Cambodia tour and presented refrigerator, washing machine, Samsung TV, air cooler to other 230 distributors.

To order goods distributed by Aung Thein Than Co Ltd, one may contact the company at NO. (64), Baho Street, Sangyoung Township, Yangon, (Ph: 527203 and 527074).

MNA

Saya Zawgyi Yarpyae Library is now three years old. Third Anniversary of the library in Pyapon on 3 April where outstanding students and volunteers were awarded.
KYEMON



Death toll in Minsk metro increases to 12



People gather around the scene where a blast occurred in Minsk, capital of Belarus, on 11 April, 2011.—XINHUA

MINSK, 12 April—The death toll in Minsk metro blast increased to 12, as one of the victims died at night, Centre for Information and Public Relations of Belarus KGB said in a statement on Tuesday morning.

According to KGB, 49 people injured applied to the health facility for medical care, 22 of them in serious condition, and 30 with injuries of moderate severity. Among the victims - two Russians, their conditions are satisfactory.—Xinhua

Sakuras bloom as life goes on in Japan

BEIJING, 12 April—The massive earthquake and tsunami have changed the lives of many Japanese people, but one thing that remains the same is the annual display of Sakura flowers. The blossoms are making life in the quake-ravaged nation colourful.

Change is occurring after the quake. Scenic spots in Tokyo now look desolate and bleak, almost completely devoid of tourists.

But in Japan there is one thing that can always be counted on.

Sakura flowers brighten the country every year in spring, attracting an endless stream of people.

Resident in Tokyo said, "The amount of people out is as many as usual, but it feels quieter than previous years. Sakura flowers are very beautiful, but there is a sort of feeling that I cannot describe in words."

For many Japanese, some feelings cannot be described in words. But they can be expressed by actions.

Xinhua

Seven killed, three injured in east China building fire



Firemen deal with a residential building explosion in Beijing, capital of China, on 11 April, 2011.—XINHUA

WENZHOU, 12 April—Seven people were killed and another three injured after a residential building caught fire late

Monday in east China's Zhejiang Province, local authorities said on Tuesday. The fire broke out at 11:25 pm Monday

on the third floor of a 7-storey residential building in Longgang Township, Cangnan County of Wenzhou City, a spokesman with the city fire department said.

Fire fighters rescued four people trapped in it and extinguished the fire around 1:15 am Tuesday. Six people died at the scene and one died later in hospital, according to the spokesman.

Investigations into the cause of the fire are underway.—Xinhua

Air France jet clips small plane at NY JFK Airport

WASHINGTON, 12 April—An Air France Airbus 380 jetliner clipped the tail of a smaller regional jet on the ground at New York's John F Kennedy Airport on Monday night, but no injuries were reported, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

Air France Flight No 7, en route to Paris, and a Comair "Canadair" regional jet were involved in the incident, FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said. Comair is a unit of Delta Air Lines. "The Airbus 380 struck the vertical stabilizer of the Comair

plane, basically struck the tail of the plane. The Comair plane evacuated passengers on the ramp. There were no reported injuries," Brown said. The smaller aircraft was damaged, she said.

A CNN correspondent who was on the Air

France flight said the incident occurred while the Airbus was taxiing to the runway for takeoff.

The Airbus 380 can carry more than 500 people, while the Comair Canadair carries about 100.—Reuters

Exterior of the under-construction Shanghai Cultural Plaza Theater is seen in east China's Shanghai, on 11 April, 2011. The Shanghai Cultural Plaza Theater covers a total construction area of 65,000 square meters, of which 57,000 square meters are underground. The Theater is scheduled to put into full operation in July.

XINHUA



Suspected human remains found in search for possible NY serial killer

BEIJING, 12 April—Investigators found suspected human remains in two locations along a remote New York beach highway Monday during their search for evidence of a possible serial killer, according to media reports.

Detective Lt Kevin Smith, a Nassau County police spokesman, said the two sets of remains found were sent to the medical examiner's office to confirm whether they are human.

Nassau joined the search this week after Suffolk police found

eight victims dumped just steps from Ocean Parkway, a highway leading to the popular Jones Beach State Park.

The search was prompted by the discovery in the past two weeks of four sets of unidentified human remains; the bodies of four women who worked as Craigslist escorts were found in the same area in December.

Police in December were following up on the disappearance of a New Jersey woman seen working as a Craigslist escort in the Long Island

area last spring when they happened upon the first of the corpses.

Detectives said it appears some victims have been dead for a long time.

So far, who may be responsible for the killings is still unknown, since no suspect has been named.—Xinhua

A huge Lomo carema model is seen in Hong Kong, south China, on 11 April, 2011. A 22-day-long lomography photo exhibition opened here on Monday, highlighting the photographic approach of Holga style.

XINHUA



Mudslide following magnitude-7 quake kills one, injures at least two

TOKYO, 12 April—A mudslide occurred after the magnitude-7 quake that jolted eastern and northeastern Japan Monday afternoon killed a 16-old-young woman and left at least two of her family members injured in Fukushima prefecture, local media reported.

It also left three people unaccounted for in the northeastern prefecture, Kyodo News reported.

Monday's quake triggered the Japan Meteorological Agency to issue a tsunami warning, which had later been lifted.

The quake struck eastern, northeastern parts of Japan at 5:16 pm local time (0816 GMT) on Monday.

The epicenter, with a depth of 10 km, was near Hamadori of Fukushima Prefecture. The Tremor was strongly felt in buildings in Tokyo, some 200 km south of Hamadori.—Xinhua

Japan raises nuke accident severity to highest level



This Sunday, 10 April image taken by T-Hawk drone aircraft and released by Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) shows the reactor building of Unit 2, centre, of the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Japan nuclear agency announced on Tuesday that it has raised the severity level of the accident at the crippled Fukushima No1 nuclear power plant to 7, the worst on an international scale, from the current 5.

XINHUA

TOKYO, 12 April—Japan's nuclear safety agency announced on Tuesday that it has raised the severity level of the accident at the crippled Fukushima No 1 nuclear power plant to 7, the worst on an international scale, from the current 5.

The ranking had only been applied to the 1986 Chernobyl accident.

According to Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, the amount of radiation emissions released at the Fukushima plant was equivalent to 10 percent of that in the Chernobyl accident.

The International Atomic Energy Agency described an accident ranked 7 as a major one.

Minoru Oogoda, an official with the Japanese agency, said the agency made the decision because the impact of radiation leaks had widely spread to the air, vegetables, tap water and the ocean.

The Japanese authorities have been battling to keep the troubled Fukushima No1 nuclear plant under control.

The plant has been leaking radioactive substances into environment. The facility was crippled by the devastating 11 March earthquake and ensuing tsunami that struck the Pacific coastal areas of northeastern and eastern Japan.

The National Police Agency said on Monday that the twin disasters had left 13,116 people dead and 14,377 others unaccounted for in Japan by 10:00 am local time.

About 151,000 survivors are staying in 2,300 shelters across the country. Meanwhile, a series of aftershocks have been occurring after the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami. —Xinhua



Members of a Ukrainian art troupe play the bandura, a plucked string instrument, at a press conference in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 11 April, 2011. The Ukrainian art group, all members of which are female, is to perform a concert with bandura namely "Tsarivny-The Princess: Magic Strings and Voices from Ukraine" on 12 and 13 April in Taiwan. The Bandura, also called as "magic string", is a Ukrainian plucked string folk instrument with 63 strings. —XINHUA

Section of highway bridge collapses in southern Xinjiang, no casualties reported

URUMQI, 12 April—A bridge on National Highway 314 partially collapsed, with pieces of it falling into the river below early on Tuesday in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, local authorities said Tuesday.

The bridge, which is 150 meters long and 24.5 meters wide, spans a local river in the suburbs of Korla City, partially collapsed at 5:30 am, a spokesman with local



Photo taken on 12 April, 2011 shows the site of a bridge collapse accident in the suburbs of Korla City, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. A bridge on National Highway 314 collapsed at 5:30 am Tuesday. There were no reports of any casualties so far. —XINHUA

government said, adding that the damaged section is 10 meters long and 12 meters wide. There are no reports of casualties. Traffic has been stopped from using the bridge, according to the spokesman.

The average traffic flow over the bridge is 12,000 to 15,000 vehicles

per day, the spokesman said. National Highway 314, with a length of 1,948 kilometers, runs east from Urumqi, regional capital of Xinjiang, turns west at Toksun where zigzagging along the southern foot of Mount Tianshan before terminating at Kunjirap on China's border with Pakistan. —Xinhua



A woman visits at the exhibition called "Paris, at the time of Impressionism" during its media day at the City Hall in Paris, France, on 11 April, 2011. With 136 paintings from masters of Impressionism, the exhibition will be opened to the public for free from 12 April to 30 July.

XINHUA

Brazil announces new rules for food imports from Japan

BRASILIA, 12 April — New rules for food imports from Japan were announced Monday in Brazil's *Official Journal*, to prevent products and raw materials with high radioactive level from entering the country.

The measures reinforce the detection on imported food possibly exposed to radioactive material due to the leak from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, after the earthquake and ensuing tsunami on 11 March. Under the regulation enacted by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) and the Ministry of Agriculture, individuals are not allowed to import food from Japan.

In addition, Brazilian companies that import food must provide a statement from the Japanese health authority indicating that the levels of radioactive elements, such as cesium and iodine 131, are below the limits set by the Codex Alimentarius, an international forum that defines food standards. Products that exceed the radiation limits will be discarded or returned to their exporter.

Anvisa will also ask for new measures and methods for products originating from 12 municipalities in Japan. —Xinhua

6.5-magnitude quake hits off east coast of Honshu, Japan

BEIJING, 12 April —An earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale hit off the east coast of Honshu of Japan at 7:08 am Beijing Time Tuesday, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The epicenter was monitored at 35.4 degrees north latitude and 140.7 degrees east longitude with a depth of about 20 kilometres, the centre said.

Xinhua

Women 'look for well-paid job in partner first'

LONDON, 12 April —Good looks or a sense of humour are increasingly taking a back seat to money when it comes to the criteria women use to find a partner, according to new research in Germany.

It said that with women getting better jobs, they are looking for their men to have a spending power to match, reports the *Daily Mail*. The Cologne-based Institute for the German Economy claimed women quizzed in a survey said they wanted to avoid stress and confrontation over big differences in earnings.

The findings showed that the number of households in which one person earns much more than the other has decreased in the 10 years between 1998 and 2008. At the same time, couples with two average or high earners increased from 27.9 percent to 30.5 percent.

Couples that included a high earner and a low earner in the relationship decreased by 2.8 percent from 28.6 to 25.8 percent in the same time span. —Internet

UK and Netherlands to sue Iceland over lost deposits

LONDON, 12 April — The UK and Dutch governments are preparing court action against Iceland to recover 4bn euros (£3.5bn) lost when the country's bank system collapsed. It follows a referendum in Iceland which rejected a repayment plan.

The UK said it was "disappointed" by the "no" vote, while the Dutch finance minister said the time for negotiations was "over". Iceland's Finance Minister

Steingrímur Sigfússon said that resolving the row in court would take at least a year. But he told the BBC: "It is very important to emphasise that the UK and the Netherlands will begin to get their money back later this year."

He said the failed bank would be able to pay out on about 90% of claims from the UK and Dutch authorities. The UK and the Netherlands say they are owed the money following the collapse of Icelandic savings bank Icesave. British and Dutch depositors were bailed out by their governments, which are now demanding their money back.

Internet

Man presumed dead in tugboat mishap

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 April — The US Coast Guard said Sunday it had given up the search for a 52-year-old man presumed dead after a tugboat capsized off Ocean Beach in San Francisco.

The missing San Anselmo man was aboard the 43-foot tugboat "Richardson's Bay" with another man Saturday afternoon when the accident occurred, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. The second man, 53, was rescued and hospitalized for shock and mild hypothermia, the newspaper said. Neither man's name had been released.

The men had been travelling to retrieve a lost skiff and authorities received a mayday call about 2 pm, the Coast Guard said. The two men abandoned their boat. The man who was rescued had a life ring while the missing man had been with an inflatable boat that was found later washed up on shore along with a life jacket. — Internet



Winners of the Binibining Pilipinas 2011 (Miss Philippines) blow kisses during the coronation night awarding ceremony in Quezon City, Philippines, on 11 April, 2011. The Binibining Pilipinas pageant crowned early Monday its newest beauty queens who will represent the country to attend international beauty competitions. From left to right are Binibining Pilipinas-Tourism Isabella Manjon, Miss Philippines-Universe Shamcey Supsup, and Binibining Pilipinas-International Dianne Necio. — XINHUA

Middle school students sing a Chinese song during the "Chinese Bridge" Chinese language competition of Swedish middle school and university students in Stockholm, capital of Sweden, on 10 April, 2011. Fifty-one students from across Sweden took part in the competition on Sunday. — XINHUA



Cyclists ride bicycles on a road during CicLAvia in downtown Los Angeles, the United States, on 10 April, 2011. During CicLAvia some LA streets were temporarily closed to cars and opened to pedestrians and bicyclists for recreational purposes. — XINHUA

Bachelor numbers grow in Haryana state

CHANDIGARH, 12 April — Haryana state is feeling the pinch of India's dwindling girl-boy ratio as boys in the 6 or less age group there outnumber girls by 1.8 million to 1.49 million. That means in the largely agriculture north-

ern state near New Delhi, where there is already a growing number of single men, there will be no brides for more than 300,000 boys in that age group when they reach marriage age.

The situation in Haryana looks bleak as currently, the marriage market for men is also influenced by factors such as jobs or landholdings. "Unable to find a match (bride) here, bachelors try to bring girls from other parts of the country.

However, the gang of 'loot-and-scoot brides' has made them really anxious as in some cases they have reportedly lost their 'wives' despite paying huge money," a local Red Cross Society official told the news paper.

His group has been working long for so-called gender sensitization.

Internet

Newspaper hacking scandal 'affected thousands'

LONDON, 12 April — The 'News of the World' phone-hacking scandal could have affected thousands of people, it has been claimed. Lawyer Charlotte Harris, who represents several of the celebrities involved, said up to 7,000 people may have had their voicemail intercepted.

The claim comes as the 'News of the World' publicly apologized to victims in the latest edition of the newspaper, saying:

"Here today, we pub-

licly and unreservedly apologize to all such individuals. What happened to them should not have happened. It was and remains unacceptable." Ms Harris, whose clients include football agent Sky Andrew, said his position was the same as that of publicist Nicola Phillips and actress Sienna Miller — who have said they would not accept a settlement from the newspaper until they had received full disclosure.

Internet



A report from the European Nitrogen Assessment suggests that 60% of the costs of nitrogen damage stem from fossil fuels burned for energy generation and transport. — INTERNET

Nitrogen footprint warning from European agency

LONDON, 12 April — Nitrogen pollution is costing every person in Europe up to £650 a year in damage to water, climate, health and wildlife, a study warns. Scientists behind the research said nitrogen was needed as fertiliser to help feed a growing world population — but sug-

gested that eating less meat could reduce the amount of pollution caused by agriculture.

The report for the European Nitrogen Assessment (ENA) also suggests with 60% of costs of the nitrogen damage stemming from fossil fuels burned for energy generation and transport, more energy-efficient homes and less long-distance travel could help.

More efficient use of fertilisers in food production is also needed, the report said.

However, the researchers stopped short of calling for a fertiliser tax to reduce the use of nitrogen in agriculture.

Professor Bob Watson, chief scientist at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, welcomed the first assessment of the Europe-wide impact of nitrogen, but warned that higher costs as a result of a tax would be passed on to consumers.

Internet

Fire engine goes around the world

LONDON, 12 April — A group of charity "firefighters" have arrived back home after circumnavigating the globe in a fire engine. The 25-strong team have worked in shifts to clock up around 30,000 miles travelling around the world in the vehicle. The Follow That Fire Engine team crossed the finishing line in Greenwich, London, on Sunday afternoon, at the very same spot from where they departed last July.

They are now in line to become record breakers and in the coming days are expected to be awarded the *Guinness World Record* title — "Longest journey by fire engine". The global mission, covering 28 countries, was led by expedition leader Steve Moore, 33, from Wimbledon, London. Follow That Fire Engine is dedicated to the memory of Steve's father, firefighter Garth Moore, who died of lung cancer aged 63.

Mr Moore said: "We wanted to do

something that paid tribute to my father, and the charities that related to his life, and passing. "We've covered gruelling terrain in Mongolia, Russia and Kazakhstan, faced the rainy season in Thailand and Laos, the height of summer in Australia and snow in the USA." — Internet



Expedition leader Steve Moore (third left) celebrates with the Follow That Fire Engine team after arriving back in Greenwich. — INTERNET

Young penguins disappearing due to Antarctic warming

Young penguin populations in the Antarctic are declining because a warmer climate cuts back on their main food source, a US study said Tuesday.

Only about 10 percent of baby penguins tagged by researchers are coming back in two to four years to breed, down from 40-50 percent in the 1970s, according to a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academic of Sciences*.

"It is a dramatic change," said lead researcher Wayne Trivelpiece, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division.

"There are still two to three million chinstrap pairs in this region but

Tourists look at the Magellanic penguins at Isla Martillo (Martillo Island) in Argentina, on 23 Jan, 2011.



there were seven to eight million two decades ago," he said.

"What's changed is young penguins surviving their transition to independence," he said. "They're no longer able to do that anywhere near the way they used to do, and we think that's directly related to the fact that there's 80 percent less krill out there now."

Krill needs ice to survive, and as climate change causes more polar sea ice to melt, the tiny sea creatures cannot breed or feast on phytoplankton in the ice and their numbers fall, taking away an important source of nourishment for penguins.

"If warming continues, winter sea-ice

may disappear from much of this region and exacerbate krill and penguin declines," the study said.

Doctors don't always take their own advice

When doctors step into their patients' shoes, their treatment decisions don't always line up with the advice they give in their clinics, a US survey says.

Faced with hypothetical treatment scenarios, when they imagined themselves as the sick person, doctors more often chose therapies that carried a higher risk of death but fewer severe side effects, said the survey, in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

New app calculates calories through photos of food

Worried about how many calories you are going to consume in that slice of pizza, chocolate cake or bag of fries? A new iPhone application may help.

After taking a picture of the meal with the phone, the app gives a calorie read-out almost instantly.

The app, called MealSnap, was developed by DailyBurn, a fitness social network that has created several other fitness and diet-related iPhone applications.

Within minutes of taking a picture of a meal and matching it to a database of some 500,000 food items, the

app sends users an alert with a range of calories for the meal that was photographed.

"The database can quickly help identify the food, how many calories there are, proteins, fat, carbs, vitamins, whatever you may want to know," said DailyBurn CEO Andy Smith.

Elephants spray tourists with water during celebrations for Thailand's traditional New Year Festival of Songkran, at a zoo in Bangkok on 11 April, 2011. Songkran, also known as the water festival, will start on 13 April.



News Album



South Korean actress Choo Ja Hyun waves to the audience as walking on the red carpet at a music awards ceremony in Dongguan City, south China's Guangdong Province, on 11 April, 2011. The 11th edition of the Top Chinese Music Chart Awards opened Monday in Dongguan.—XINHUA

Cocaine once part of film budgets, Dennis Quaid says

LOS ANGELES, 12 April—Actor Dennis Quaid says his biggest mistake was getting addicted to cocaine, but that the drug was so prevalent in Hollywood in the 1980s that supplies were built into the budgets of movies.

In an article for *Newsweek* called "My Favourite Mistake," Quaid, 57, said he started doing cocaine when he left college and came to work in Los Angeles in 1974.

"Cocaine was even in the budgets of movies, thinly disguised. It was petty cash, you know? It was supplied, basically, on movie sets because everyone was doing it. People would make deals. Instead of having a cocktail, you'd have a line," Quaid wrote.

By the late 1980s, when he was making one of his most acclaimed movies, "The Big Easy," he was so addicted to cocaine that he was getting just one hour of sleep a night, he said.

Reuters

U2 beats Rolling Stones record for biggest-grossing tour

LOS ANGELES, 12 April—Irish band U2's current 360 world tour is the most successful ever, beating the record set by The Rolling Stones four years ago, promoters Live Nation Entertainment said on Monday.

The Irish supergroup, who played

Brazil at the weekend, will gross ticket sales of more than \$700 million when their 360 tour finally wraps up in Canada in July, Live Nation said.

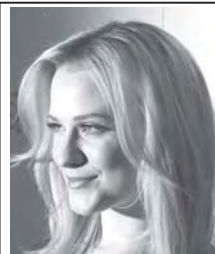
The U2 360 tour, staged in the round in a transportable stadium, will have been seen by more than 7 million people in 30 countries when it ends.

The Rolling Stones 2005-07 Bigger Bang Tour took \$554 million in ticket sales, Live Nation said.

Reuters

Irish singer Bono (R) and guitarist The Edge perform with their band U2 during their show at Morumbi stadium in Sao Paulo on 9 April, 2011, as part of their 360 Tour.

INTERNET



Cast member Evan Rachel Wood arrives at the premiere of "The Conspirator" in New York on 11 April, 2011.

XINHUA

Benicio Del Toro impregnates Rod Stewart's daughter

LOS ANGELES, 12 April—Noted Hollywood lothario Benicio Del Toro is to become a father for the first time after a fling with one of Rod Stewart's daughters, a spokeswoman for the actor said on Monday.

Del Toro, 44, is expecting a baby with Kimberly Stewart, 31. It will be the first grandchild for Rod Stewart, 66, who coincidentally became a father for the eighth time in February.

"Kimberly is pregnant. Although they are not a couple, they are looking forward to the arrival of the baby," del Toro's publicist said in a statement. The baby's due date was not known.

Del Toro has been romantically linked in the past to a slew of actresses including Scarlett Johansson, Alicia Silverstone, Heather Graham, Catherine Keener and Chiara Mastroianni.

Reuters

SPORTS

Zaragoza ease relegation fears with win over Getafe

BARCELONA, 12 April — Real Zaragoza opened up a three-point cushion over the bottom three in the Spanish First Division with a 2-1 win on Monday



Argentina's Leonardo Ponzio.

over Getafe who themselves have been sucked into the battle for survival.

Zaragoza had lost three of the last four games but they faced a Getafe side in freefall with just one win this year. "This is a relief for us but we are still in the same position with three points more. Nobody is safe with 33 points," said Zaragoza coach Javier Aguirre.—Internet

Fergie warns Chelsea to beware of returning Rooney

MANCHESTER, 12 April — Sir Alex Ferguson believes Wayne Rooney will be raring to go against Chelsea as he returns from his domestic ban in the Champions League on Tuesday.

United take a 1-0 lead into the quarter-final home leg after Rooney scored the only goal in the first game at Stamford Bridge last week.

Rooney was given a two-match suspension for swearing into a television camera after scoring a hat-trick in the 4-2 Premier League win at West Ham.

He was absent from

the 2-0 victory over Fulham at the weekend and will miss the FA Cup semi-final against Manchester City on Saturday.—Internet



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney celebrates scoring the winner in the Champions League Quarter Final first leg against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge last week.

INTERNET

St Louis and Lecavalier back in the playoffs

TAMPA, 12 April — Martin St. Louis and Vincent Lecavalier are relishing another playoff drive with the Tampa Bay Lightning. St. Louis and Lecavalier, holdovers from the Lightning's previous playoff squad four years ago, also led Tampa



Tampa Bay Lightning's Vincent Lecavalier (4) celebrates his goal against the Carolina Hurricanes with teammates Martin St. Louis (26) and Brett Clark (7) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, NC on 9 April, 2011.—INTERNET

to the Stanley Cup title in 2004.

The Lightning, who won 46 games and had 103 points in the regular season, open an Eastern Conference first-round series Wednesday night at Pittsburgh. "We've earned our way back to this," St. Louis said on Monday. "It's a longtime coming. I think we're ready."

Internet

McIlroy's 'meltdown' leaves Northern Irish blue

LONDON, 12 April — Some called it a "meltdown," others labeled it "misery" or a "horror show." No matter how you describe it, Rory McIlroy's final round at the Masters turned into agony for the young Northern Irishman from Holywood and for his supporters back in Britain. The 21-year-old McIlroy, who hails from the small town in County Down, fell apart at Augusta National on Sunday just when he seemed poised to win his first major.—Internet



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland



Liverpool's forward Andy Carroll (L) celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester City, at Anfield stadium in Liverpool. Liverpool won 3-0.—INTERNET

Carroll double hits City Champions League hopes

LIVERPOOL, 12 April — Record signing Andy Carroll delivered a blow to Manchester City's Champions League ambitions as Liverpool cruised to a 3-0 victory over Roberto Mancini's side at Anfield on Monday.

Carroll helped himself to his first two goals in a Liverpool shirt since joining from Newcastle for £35 million in the January transfer window.

Dirk Kuyt also netted on a torrid night for City, who lost captain Carlos Tevez to a suspected hamstring injury ahead of Saturday's FA Cup semi-final with neighbours Manchester United at Wembley.

Mancini's expensively-assembled side has now failed to win any of their last six Premier League away games and remain fourth in the table. The Italian is under pressure to qualify for next season's Champions League.—Internet

I'm not untouchable on clay says tennis ace Nadal



Spanish Rafael Nadal

MONTE CARLO, 12 April — Rafael Nadal began laying the groundwork Monday on his bid for an unprecedented seventh straight title at the Monte Carlos Masters by damping down the growing belief that he is all but untouchable on clay.

"I may have more options on clay," said the world number one Spaniard who stands 34-1 at the

venue with his only loss coming in the third round in his first appearance in 2003.

Since then he's reeled off 32 straight match wins and is the only player in the post-1968 Open era to win six straight titles in a tournament. "But I don't feel unbeatable, I know I can lose," said the player who should be coming into his element as his favourite part of the ATP season begins with a second-round match after a bye against against journeyman Finn Jarkko Nieminen who defeated Frenchman Julien Benneteau 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3).—Internet

I am not afraid of being sacked, says Ancelotti

MANCHESTER, 12 April — Carlo Ancelotti doesn't expect to lose his job if he fails in his quest to deliver the Champions League trophy at Chelsea this season.

The 51-year-old Italian, who has a year remaining on his contract, is under pressure to lead Chelsea to glory and claim their first ever win in the Europe's premier cup competition.

The Chelsea manager has the added weight of expectation hanging over him, with this representing his side's last realistic chance of silverware with

their Premier League title push all but over.

But the veteran Italian, who won the competition with AC Milan in 2007, insists he is feeling "excited" rather than fearing for his future in a trophy owner Roman Abramovich craves to win more than most.

Internet



Chelsea's Carlo Ancelotti (R)

It's like a new start says Ferdinand

MANCHESTER, 12 April — Rio Ferdinand insists he was never worried about making his return to the Manchester United side after his calf injury.

The defender, 32,



Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand

missed 10 weeks with the injury before returning in last week's 1-0 Champions League quarter-final first leg victory at Chelsea.

It was just the latest absence Ferdinand has had to endure in an injury-plagued couple of seasons.

Sir Alex Ferguson gave the Manchester United captaincy to Nemanja Vidic at the start of the season because Ferdinand was sidelined so regularly.

Internet

Hoffenheim boss may be dismissed

HOFFENHEIM, 12 April — Hoffenheim coach Marco Pezzaiuoli looks set to lose his job at the mid-table Bundesliga side after owner Dietmar Hop expressed his disappointment at their performances under him.

Pezzaiuoli was promoted from assistant coach after Ralf Rangnick was sacked on 1 January and signed a two-and-a-half year contract but results have not improved markedly.

A 3-2 away defeat at Freiburg on Saturday leaves them in 10th spot with just five matches remaining and having taken just 12 points in 12 matches under Pezzaiuoli.—Internet



Hoffenheim coach Marco Pezzaiuoli

Ibrahimovic gets three-match ban for rant

ROME, 12 April — AC Milan's Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was handed a three-match ban on Monday after a foul-mouthed tirade at a linesman during his side's 2-1 win at Fiorentina over the weekend.

Sporting judge Gianpaolo Tosel said Ibrahimovic, who had already picked up a yellow card during the game before being sent off, had shown "inappropriate behaviour against the other side... and made an offensive statement.—Internet

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- ★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- ★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- ★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Kalay Township, a burgeoning source of sunflower

Byline: De Daing



The sunflower farm of U Aye Pe of Indaingyi Village, Kalay Township.

In 1988-89, Kalay Township's total sown acreage stood at only 10,114, and produced 4,142,701 baskets of paddy from 69,142 acres of fields. In 2009-2010, the area of its farmlands increased to 153,208 acres. And it

put 106,087 acres under monsoon and summer paddy and produced 9,904,788 baskets of paddy, thus doubling the paddy output in over 20 years. According to the documents, the paddy per acre yield in Kalay Township is 84.35

baskets and the rice supply exceeds the demand by 75.78 per cent.

The same year, the township grew Magway-10 and Theikpan-121 strains of groundnut in 17,321 acres of farmlands, yielding

1,211,950 baskets, and Hnanbok Hmweni and Shakkalay strains of groundnut in 28,377 acres of farmlands, yielding 186,042 baskets.

It put 37,211 acres under sunflower of (See page 9)

Sandalwood grinding competition held

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—A sandalwood grinding competition was organized to mark the Maha Thingyan Festival at U Ottama Hall in Sittway, Rakhine State, this morning.

Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin and ministers, departmental officials, members of social organizations and guests attended the contest.

Forty-one teams from urban wards contended for the prizes. After the contest, Thangyan troupes entertained the attendees. The awarding ceremony takes place at 7 am tomorrow.—MNA

Unhappy feet



Adélie and gentoo penguins hobnob on a beach on the Shetland Islands in the Scotia Sea. Scientists say that as krill numbers drop across the West Antarctic Peninsula, Adélie penguins, which depend on these tiny crustaceans for survival, may be going hungry.

INTERNET