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Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal opened

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April— The opening ceremony of 1373 ME Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal was held in front of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this evening.

It was attended by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials, choral dancers from ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Command and hotels in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, artistes, and guests.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt said in his address: Today's ceremony was to open third Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival in Nay Pyi Taw in transition from 1373 ME to a new year.

Handed down by ancestors, it is the significant festival of the entire nation.

Staff families of each ministry, families of hotels and companies and residents will participate in the festival of the administrative city.

Water is poured in Thingyan festival to cool down summer's scorching heat and to wash off the dirt of the previous year. It is the festival where mistakes, misdeeds and retaliations are also wash off.

The traditional customs should be preserved in the festival, avoiding indecent dresses, dirty jokes, rudely pouring water and drinking.

It is the festival the entire people seek merits from paying respect to the older persons, releasing animals, and preserving Sabbath.

On first day of the new year, people of each ward and road auditioned Parrittas and share merits.

The Central Pandal will be opened in Nay Pyi Taw City Hall and four others in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zones. Choral dancers and songsters will entertain the capital's revelers at entertainment pandals.

Moreover, Nay Pyi Taw Fountain Garden, National Herbal Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, Safari Garden, National Landmarks Garden will also be kept open.

Pianist Kun Zaw, Actor Soe Yan Aung and songsters Shwe Yi Thein Tan, Seint Nay Chi and Phone Khant and choral dancers to the accompaniment of the orchestra of the Ministry of Culture entertained those present at the ceremony.

MNA

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal in progress in front of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this evening.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt formally opens Water Festival of Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Revellers urged not to splash water on postmen in uniform

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Postmen of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs will be on duty to deliver letters and telegraphs on 15 April (Sunday) and new year holiday on 20 April (Friday) without off on those days.

The express mail service of the ministry will also be run on the new year holidays.

MPT has urged water festival goers not to throw water to the postmen in uniform during the water festival days.— *MNA*

What we call it Thingyan: Beyond the bottle

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Pakokku Central Pandal on Myoma Road in Pakokku packed with merry-makers on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day.

PAGE 6

A decorated float of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival in Mandalay.

PAGE 6

Revellers throwers happily at NAING Group Pandal in Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon.

PAGE 6

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 13 April, 2012

Private sector contribution

When compared with our neighbours, there is a big difference between our rice export volume and theirs despite the small difference in sown acreage. In fact, their cultivation methods and strains are much more advanced than us and that is the source of this big difference.

As we are still an agricultural country, we are trying for successful cultivation of paddy as well as other crops boosting crop output for domestic consumption and export. In the endeavour, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been taking coordinative measures to acquire necessary techniques, methods, strains and cooperation wherever possible including from international organizations and international community. The ministry is also seeking cooperation from countries enjoying higher agro technology. As the technique to grow Palethwe hybrid paddy strains is the best for the time being, the ministry is educating farmers all across the country to grow the hybrid strain.

As for the developed countries, they are focusing on industrial development and engaging in agricultural tasks with the use of modern machinery. For Myanmar which relies on agriculture for fulfilling people's basic needs, she too needs to introduce mechanized farming for agricultural sector development.

Farmers on their part must work hard accepting advice of experts to be successful in their agricultural business.

The State will be able to assist the agro sector only if it is economically strong. This is why the private sector contribution is also necessary. With the assistance of the State, the private sector should set up agricultural cartels for large-scale mechanized farming. These business organizations should also help farmers apply modern methods, fertilizers and high-yield strains. They should also disburse low-interest loans to farmers. In this way we all must find means that will help narrow the rice export gap between our country and her neighbours.

Perpetuation of peace discussed with KNU

Union level peace-making group holds talks with New Mon State Party

Union level peace-making group member Union Minister U Aung Min and New Mon State Party peace-making group exchange documents.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—A ceremony to hand over two motor vehicles to Liaison Offices of Kayin National Union (KNU) took place at Zwekabin Hotel in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 10 April, attended by Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Khin Yi from Union level Peace-making group, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, the State Ministers and officials, Secretary-General of KNU Naw Sipora Sein, delegation led by Chief of General Staff General Saw Mutu Say Poe and members and negotiators from both sides.

On behalf of Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi handed over documents related to two Grand Tiger motor vehicles donated by Ministry of Industry to be used at liaison offices in Hpa-an and Dawei through General Saw Mutu Say Poe.

After that, the Union Ministers, the State Chief Minister, members of State level peace-making group, and delegation led by Naw Sipora Sein and General Saw Mutu Say Poe from KNU peace-making group hold discussion on perpetuation of the ceasefire and opening of the liaison offices. State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin and member of KNU Central Committee Saw Thaw Thi Bwe signed minute and exchanged it.

The following day, Union level peace-making group and New Mon State Party peace-making group held on-going peace-making process at Mon State Government Office in Mawlamyine. It was attended by Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Khin Yi from Union level peace-making group, State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win, Lt-Col Zaw Naing Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htay Myint Aung from Union-level peace-making group, the State Advocate-General, Lt-Col Kyaw Myint from the South-East Command, the Secretary of State Government, U Shwe Thaung from Region Development Supervisory Office, members led by Joint General Secretary (1) Nai Aung Min of New Mon State Party peace-making group and delegates from both sides.

At the meeting, Union level peace-making group and New Mon State Party peace-making group discussed matters related to the ceasefire across the country, perpetuation of the ceasefire with New Mon State Party, regional development and social, education, health and economic affairs, the release of prisoners of New Mon State Party and other armed groups and continued holding of Union level peace talks. Union Minister U Aung Min of Union level peace-making group and joint General Secretary (1) Nai Aung Min of New Mon State Party peace-making group signed the meeting minute and exchanged it.

MNA

Patrons and president of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation present books at Chin State WAO's Pyinnya Alin Library.—MNA

MWAF emphasizes social welfare tasks in Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for free eye surgical operation in Chin State by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at Haka General Hospital on 5 April morning.

President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin presented K 3.15 million to Medical Superintendent Dr Ba Maung. The president gave gifts to three eye specialists and surgical team members. Later, she donated K 500,000 to the fund of the General Hospital and cash assistance to the patients.

Patrons of the federation Daw Ni Ni Win and Daw Mya Theingi visited the summer women's tailoring course and donated books to Chin State WAO's Pyinnya Alin library.

Chairperson of Chin State WAO Daw Aye Aye Myint and chairpersons of District WAO reported on their works. The patrons of the federation presented K 500,000 to the organizations.

At Vethala Home for the Aged in Haka, the president and patrons presented K 1486000 and gifts to the aged.

On 6 April, they viewed traditional cotton ware industries and swime farm of local people and donated K 800,000 to Kyon-kyon Parahita Development School K 6.1 million to Parahita School, monasteries and nunneries.

On 7 April, they donated K 300,000 to Lakhu Youth Development Parahita School in Haka and K 250,000 to the fund of Tawya monastery. They donated K 750,000 to Nazayat Youth Development Parahita Home in Falam. While in Falam, they donated K 350,000 to the nunnery.

On 9 April, they presented prizes to the winners in the culture course at Aye Yeik Mon-4 Home for the Girls' Orphanage in Chanmye Aungsi Ward of Kalay.

In Indainggon Ward, they viewed successful production of Phyo roasted lablab industry with the use of micro-credit loans. They presented K 300,000 to WAOs of three townships from Kalay District.—*MNA*

Spanish national kidnapped in Nigeria

Anti-riot police officers patrol the Enugu-Onitsha highway in 2005. Gunmen have kidnapped a Spanish national from his home in the southeastern Nigerian city of Enugu, where he was believed to have been working as a doctor, police said.— INTERNET

ENUGU, 12 April — Gunmen have kidnapped a Spanish national from his home in the southeastern Nigerian City of Enugu, where he was believed to have been working as a doctor, police said on Wednesday. "The man was abducted from his house last week by some gunmen who took him to an unknown location," police spokesman Ebere Amaraeze told *AFP*, adding that the kidnapping occurred on 4 April.

"We don't want to reveal the details of our operation so as not to jeopardise efforts to free him from his captors." Amaraeze declined to say if a ransom demand had been made. Earlier, Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo said in Madrid that the man was believed to have been abducted and that his disappearance "has all the characteristics of a kidnapping for economic reasons."

Spanish media reported that the 58-year-old doctor works for a clinic belonging to a foundation financially supported by Catholic institution Opus Dei in Nigeria. "The organization he works for has asked for total discretion," the foreign minister added as he arrived in parliament. "It is in the south of the country, not in the north, so there are no political implications of any type." Spain's embassy in Nigeria was working with the local authorities to resolve the case and the foreign ministry was in "permanent contact" with the man's family, a ministry spokesman said.— *Internet*

Salford plane crash: 'Aircraft had fuel supply problem'

LONDON, 12 April — A plane which crashed into two houses in Greater Manchester, killing the pilot, had probably suffered a fuel supply problem, a report has revealed. Ian Daglish, 59, was killed in the crash in Salford while another man, aged 19, suffered serious 60% burns. Their light aircraft plunged into two homes in Newlands Avenue, Peel Green, on 29 July 2011. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) said the Piper PA38 Tomahawk's engine stalled on take off.

The plane came to rest in a driveway between the two homes.— INTERNET

Father-of-two Mr Daglish, from Alderley Edge, Cheshire, was an experienced pilot. The plane's engine cut out shortly after leaving Manchester/Barton City Airport, at about 200ft (60m), said the AAIB report. It stated that the plane rolled to the left, with the extension roof of the first house most likely being struck by the aircraft's right wing. The burning plane's underside hit the side wall of a neighbouring house, coming to rest in a driveway between the two homes.

The AAIB report said: "The account of the passenger and the findings from the investigation support a fuel supply problem as being the most likely cause of the engine stoppage."It added: "Although other potential causes for the engine stoppage could not be eliminated from the investigation, the most likely cause, based on the available evidence, was that stiffness of the fuel selector valve and wear on the rod connecting it to the selector handle, may have resulted in the valve being in an intermediate position during the take-off. "This would have reduced the fuel flow to a level too low to sustain continuous engine operation."—*Internet*

US-Afghan talks face tough hurdle over troops

File photo shows US soldiers setting up concertina wire during a mission in the Turkham Nangarhar Region of Afghanistan. Washington and Kabul have hailed breakthroughs towards signing a treaty on relations after 2014 — but it will not cover the crucial issue of the status of any US troops remaining in Afghanistan. INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 12 April — Washington and Kabul have hailed breakthroughs towards signing a treaty on relations after 2014 — but it will not cover the crucial issue of the status of any US troops remaining in Afghanistan. "Anything having to do with the continued presence of US forces and the roles that they will play will be negotiated separately after the strategic partnership agreement," US embassy spokesman Gavin Sundwall told *AFP*. In Iraq, Washington pulled out all its troops, leaving no residual force, after failing to get Baghdad to grant its soldiers immunity from prosecution in local courts.

In Afghanistan, anger over the murderous rampage last month by a US soldier who allegedly killed 17 Afghan villagers in their homes at night before being flown out of the country, has complicated the negotiations ahead. The 130,000-strong US-led NATO force helping the Afghan government fight a decade-long Taleban insurgency is due to end combat operations and pull out by the end of 2014, but a residual US force is expected to remain. The issue of legal immunity for those troops "is definitely one of the issues, among many others, that will be discussed with the Americans", a senior Afghan government official told *AFP* on condition of anonymity.

He pointed out that last year a loya jirga — a traditional grand assembly of tribal chiefs — demanded that American troops should be liable to prosecution in local courts. But the issue has not loomed large — at least publicly — in the Afghan negotiations so far, with Kabul concentrating on getting control over the US-run Bagram prison and controversial special forces night raids against Taleban militants. President Hamid Karzai achieved both those aims over the past month, and officials on both sides have expressed hope that the strategic partnership agreement could be signed ahead of the NATO summit in Chicago in May.— *Internet*

People wait outside after being evacuated from their buildings following an earthquake in Mexico City on 11 April, 2012.— INTERNET

Strong quake shakes Mexico, no major damage

MEXICO CITY, 12 April — A strong earthquake hit western Mexico on Wednesday, shaking buildings as far away as the capital and sending people rushing out of offices onto the streets, though there were no reports of major damage.

Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard said on his Twitter account there were no initial signs of serious damage and that key services in the capital, including its subway system and the international airport, were operating normally. "There was a nasty crunching sound in my bathroom and everything moved," said Adela Arceo, who was looking after two young children in the central Roma neighbourhood of Mexico City. There were no initial reports of casualties.

The US Geological Survey said the 6.5 magnitude quake struck in the western state of Michoacan at a depth of 12.4 miles (20 km). The epicentre was 238 miles (384 km) west-southwest of Mexico City. The USGS earlier estimated the strength of the quake at 7.0 magnitude and said it was deeper. Emergency services in Michoacan and in the neighbouring state of Guerrero, which has been hit by a series of recent quakes, reported no major problems on Wednesday. "You could feel it, but there's no major damage. There are no reports, no emergency calls," said Agustin Lule, a spokesman for fire services in Uruapan, a town in Michoacan near the epicentre of the quake. *Reuters* reporters in coastal areas of Guerrero and neighbouring Oaxaca state said there was no damage.

The Honolulu-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said it had not issued a tsunami warning, but staff oceanographer David Walsh noted the quake was close to water, big enough and potentially deep enough to cause one. It was the third big earthquake to hit Mexico in less than a month.

Reuters

US grabs lead over China in clean energy race

WASHINGTON, 12 April— The United States has regained the lead in the clean energy race, investing $48 billion last year to surpass China, which held the world's top spending spot since 2009, said a study on Wednesday.

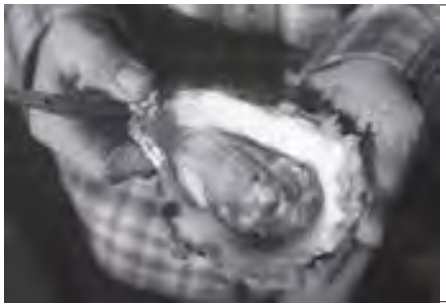
The US surge in private investment was a 42 percent increase over 2010 and saw Washington maintain its lead worldwide in both venture capital and research and development cash, said the Pew Charitable Trusts annual report on clean energy.

However, the US boom was largely driven by expiring tax incentives, highlighting "a persistent phenomenon in which the country fails to deploy into the marketplace the clean energy innovations it creates in the laboratory," it said. China, which fell to second, invested $45.5 billion last year, a one percent increase over 2010, but maintained its global lead in wind energy investment and in solar manufacturing, said the report.

Experts say a key difference between the United States and China is in how they attract investment — China by having solid green energy policies that reassure investors and the United States by offering tax breaks for investment.

The United States has regained the lead in the clean energy race, investing $48 billion last year to surpass China, which held the world's top spending spot since 2009, said a study on Wednesday. INTERNET

"China has been able to fuel its growth by having very consistent and long-term policies in place that really tell investors there is an opportunity for them to make a profit," said Phyllis Cuttino, director of Pew's Clean Energy Programme. "The United States has no renewable energy target but they have decided to try and incentivize clean energy investment through a variety of tax incentives, tax credits, tax subsidies, loan guarantees," she told *AFP*.—*Internet*



In this 6 Dec, 2011, file, photo, owner Kevin Lunny holds a Pacific oyster at the Drake's Bay Oyster Co in Point Reyes National Seashore, Calif. Scientists blame higher levels of carbon dioxide in Pacific Ocean waters caused by man-made global warming for the failure of oysters to produce young at an Oregon hatchery. INTERNET

Study blames ocean CO2 for oyster declines

LOS ANGELES, 12 April — Scientists are blaming slightly higher levels of carbon dioxide in Pacific Ocean waters linked to global warming for the failure of oyster larvae to survive in an Oregon hatchery. They say higher acidity of the water that comes with more carbon dioxide makes it harder for young oysters to form their shells, dooming them in a matter of days, even if they are moved to more favourable environments.

"A lot of studies talk about the year 2050 when ocean acidification becomes a problem," for sea life, said lead author Alan Barton, production manager at the Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery on Netarts Bay. "It showed up five years ago for us," and almost put the hatchery out of business. The study appeared on Tuesday in the online edition of the journal *Limnology and Oceanography*. "The predicted rise of atmospheric CO2 in the next two to three decades may push oyster larval growth past the break-even point in terms of production," study co-author Burke Hales, professor of biogeochemical oceanography at Oregon State University, said in a statement.

The study represents some of the first research taking the issue out of the laboratory and putting it into the natural environment, said Annaliese Hettinger, a doctoral candidate at the University of California at Davis Bodega Lab, who did not take part in the study.

Internet

'Odd duck' Indonesia quake surprises scientists

LOS ANGELES, 12 April — The massive earthquake off Indonesia surprised scientists: Usually this type of jolt isn't this powerful. The biggest earthquakes tend to occur in subduction zones where one plate of the Earth's crust dives under another. This grind produced the 2004 magnitude-9.1 Indian Ocean disaster and the magnitude-9 Japan quake last year. Wednesday's magnitude-8.6 occurred along a strike-slip fault line similar to California's San Andreas Fault. Scientists say it's rare for strike-slip quakes, in which blocks of rocks slide horizontally past each other, to be this large.

"It's clearly a bit of an odd duck," said seismologist Susan Hough of the US Geological Survey in Pasadena, Calif. As one of the world's most seismically active places, Indonesia is located on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanos and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin. Pressure builds up in the rocks over time and is eventually released in an earthquake. Wednesday's quake was followed by a magnitude-8.2 aftershock. Both were strike-slip quakes. "A week ago, we wouldn't have thought we could have a strike-slip earthquake of this size. This is very, very large," said Kevin Furlong, a professor of geosciences at Penn State University.

So large, in fact, that the main shock went into the history books. Record-keeping by the USGS National Earthquake Information Centre ranks Wednesday's shaker as the 11th largest since 1900. It's probably the largest strike-slip event though there's debate about whether a similar-sized Tibet quake in 1950 was the same kind.—*Internet*

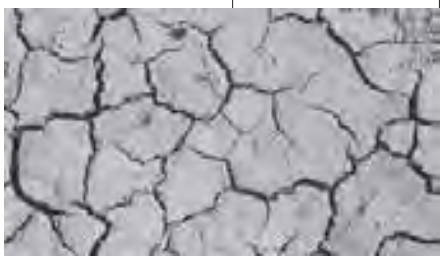
Environment Agency warns of flash flood risk in drought

LONDON, 12 April — Drought conditions affecting much of England could increase the risk of flash flooding in heavy rain, the Environment Agency has warned. Hosepipe bans were introduced in parts of southern and eastern England on 5 April after one of the driest two-year periods on record. But the agency said "dry, compacted soils" absorbed water less easily and future storms could cause flash floods.

It is encouraging people to use its new Facebook FloodAlerts application. Head of flood incident management Craig Woolhouse said drought conditions meant that flooding "may be far from people's minds" but that the risk could not be ignored. "Being prepared is vital to help reduce the risk of flooding," he said. "We are urging communities to use the new application, alongside our existing Floodline Hotline and website updates, to keep one step ahead of future floods."

Internet

Dry, compacted soils absorb heavy rains less easily.— INTERNET



Wal-Mart previews 'Disc to Digital' movie service

ROSEMEAD, 12 April — Wal-Mart Stores Inc previewed its "Disc to Digital" service for converting DVDs into an online library on Wednesday. Based on my experience, I'd give it a six out of 10.

That's the number of discs I was able to convert from a completely unscientific sampling of my personal DVD library. The new service allows movie fans to walk into any Walmart, where they can present their old DVDs and get permanent access to an online version of each movie that can be streamed from a home computer or a mobile device. The DVDs are stamped with a special ink to prevent further conversion. The DVDs, however, can still be played. Each DVD conversion costs as little as $2.

Three of my four failed conversions were no surprise — two were obscure documentaries, and one was a film from The Walt Disney Co, which is not participating in the service. One was a bit puzzling: "Water for Elephants," a fairly successful romance released last year by 20th Century Fox, one of the studios that is partnering with Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart's category director for movies, Louis Greth, said the retailer hasn't yet cleared the rights for all the titles from participating studios. That will result in some titles not being available. Some actors and directors have not agreed to sign over digital rights to movies they took part in. In the case of director George Lucas, that includes all six "Star Wars" movies.

Internet

A "Walmart Entertainment" stamp in indelible ink has been placed on a disc, preventing any further conversion, but allowing it to still be played, at a Wal-Mart store in Rosemead, Calif, on 11 April, 2012. INTERNET

Bug hits new Nokia Lumia 900 smartphone

LONDON, 12 April — A software bug in the latest Nokia smartphone is causing some handsets in the US to occasionally lose their data connection, the company has said. The Finnish manufacturer said a fix for the Lumia 900's "memory management issue" would be issued on 16 April. In the meantime, affected customers are being offered $100 (£63) in call credits. Analysts say the setback could hit Nokia's hopes of regaining market share from rivals Apple and Google. Nokia is still the world's largest mobile manufacturer, but is losing out significantly in the smartphone market. The Lumia 900, which was released in the US on Sunday, runs Microsoft's latest Windows Phone software. The phone is expected to launch in the UK by the end of the month.

In a blog post, Nokia said the phone had enjoyed a "positive response" since its release, but that problems soon emerged. "After this flagship device began selling, we identified a software issue," the company wrote. "In short, a memory management issue was discovered that could, in some cases, lead to loss of data connectivity. "This issue is purely in the phone software, and is not related to either phone hardware or the network itself. As a proactive and prudent measure, we decided to take immediate action." The company said that users who wanted the update immediately could trade in their handsets for a model already running the software fix.—*Internet*

The Lumia 900 is seen as Nokia's strongest attempt to take on Apple and Google to date.— INTERNET

Apple develops tool to 'detect and remove' Flashback Trojan

Apple products have previously been regarded as less susceptible to viruses than Windows PCs. INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 12 April — Apple has said it is developing a tool to "detect and remove" a Trojan that is said to have infected more than half a million Mac computers. It said it is working with internet service providers (ISPs) to disrupt the command network being used by hackers to exploit the malware. Trojans are infections that can expose computers to control by hackers. It is Apple's first statement on the threat. It issued patches to prevent the malware's installation last week.

The two security updates were released eight weeks after Java's developer Oracle issued a fix for other computer systems.In a message posted on Apple's website's support section, the company said it had fixed a "Java security flaw for systems running OS X v10.7 and Mac OS X v10.6". It suggested users of Macs running earlier versions of its system software should disable Java in their web browser preferences. In addition, Apple said it was working with ISPs to shut down networks of servers hosted by the malware authors, which the code - known as Flashback - relies on "to perform many of its critical functions".

Russian anti-virus firm Dr Web, which has tracked the scale of the botnet, said it believed around 650,000 machines had now been infected.—*Internet*

Seaweed is collected in Dalian, in northeast China's Liaoning Province, for export to Japan.—INTERNET

Seaweed linked to post-menopause cancer risk

TOKYO, 12 April — A Japanese study on Wednesday said regular seaweed consumption among post-menopausal women heightened their risk of developing thyroid cancer, linking it to iodine in the macrobiotic food. A 14-year national survey of nearly 53,000 Japanese women, aged between 40 and 69, found that the group reported 134 thyroid cancer cases, including 113 cases of papillary carcinoma, a common type of the illness.

Those who ate seaweed daily were 1.7 times more likely to develop cancer than those who ate it no more than twice a week, the study said. The risk more than doubled among post-menopausal women who were about 3.8 times more likely to develop the cancer than those who limited their consumption of seaweed, a popular food in Japan, the study said. "Seaweed consumption was clearly associated with an increased risk of papillary carcinoma," said the study led by the National Cancer Centre and National Institute for Environmental Studies.—*Internet*

Doubts over insect-bite treatment

LONDON, 12 April — People should consider using a cold, wet cloth to treat insect bites instead of turning to over-the-counter remedies, experts say. An investigation has concluded that there is little evidence that creams, painkillers and anti-inflammatories often used for bites actually work.

In any case, said *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin* researchers, the reactions got better by themselves in most cases. Midges, mosquitoes, flies, fleas and bed-bugs account for most bites. A variety of remedies are sold over the counter in pharmacies to relieve the itching, pain and swelling.

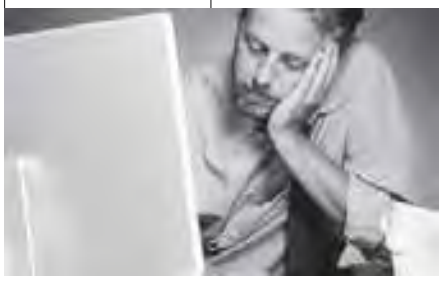
Researchers from the journal reviewed a host of data and evidence published on insect-bite treatments. It concluded in many cases treatments for insect bites had not actually been tested for such purposes. It said medical help should clearly be sought if serious symptoms, such as infections or anaphylactic shock, developed.

The bed-bug feeds on blood. INTERNET

But it said for simple bites a flannel or cloth soaked in cold water often worked best - despite advice from official bodies, such as NHS Choices, suggesting treatments should be used. David Phizackerley, the deputy editor of the journal, said: "People are using these treatments so they should know there is no evidence they work. [Most] bites will get better on their own."—*Internet*

Shift workers 'risking' diabetes and obesity

Night working has been linked to poorer health. INTERNET



LONDON, 12 April — Shift workers getting too little sleep at the wrong time of day may be increasing their risk of diabetes and obesity, according to researchers. The team is calling for more measures to reduce the impact of shift working following the results of its study. Researchers controlled the lives of 21 people, including meal and bedtimes. The results, published in *Science Translational Medicine*, showed changes to normal sleep meant the body struggled to control sugar levels. Some participants even developed early symptoms of diabetes within weeks. Shift work has been associated with a host of health problems. Doctors at Brigham and Women's Hospital, in the US, were trying to study its effects in a controlled environment.

The 21 health-trial participants started with 10 hours' sleep at night. This was followed by three weeks of disruption to their sleep and body clocks. The length of the day was extended to 28 hours, creating an effect similar to a full-time flyer constantly getting jet lag. Participants were allowed only 6.5 hours' sleep in the new 28-hour day, equivalent to 5.6 hours in a normal day. They also lived in dim light to prevent normal light resetting the body the clock. During this part of the study, sugar levels in the blood were "significantly increased" immediately after a meal and during "fasting" parts of the day.

Internet

Stocks make a U-turn, rising after big decline

Specialist Robert Tuccillo, centre, works with traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 9 April, 2012. Stocks are opening sharply higher, on 11 April, 2012, a day after their worst loss of the year.— INTERNET

NEW YORK, 12 April — Investors on Wednesday all but forgot the previous day's burdens and sent stocks soaring. It was a stark turnaround from the day before, when they'd pushed the market into a free-fall on worries about European debt and corporate earnings in the US. Those fears about problems festering on both sides of the Atlantic were calmed thanks to a surprising profit from Alcoa and news that borrowing costs in Spain had edged down, a potential sign that investors have more faith — for now, anyway — in that country's financial health.

The result was a U-turn on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed as much as 129 points in early trading before settling at 12,805.39, up 89.46 points. The previous day, it had lost 214 points, the cap to its biggest and longest losing streak this year. European markets rose, too. Stocks climbed roughly 1 percent in major capitals, excluding Greece, after losing 2 to 3 percent the day before. Treasury prices fell, signaling that investors are more willing to put money in stocks. Other US indexes also erased much of the previous day's losses. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 10.12 points to 1,368.71 after losing 24 points the day before. The Nasdaq composite climbed 25.24 points to 3,016.46 following a 56-point loss Tuesday.

Alcoa rose more than 6 percent after reporting late Tuesday that it turned a profit in the first three months of the year and handily beat the expectations of Wall Street analysts, who were predicting a loss.

Internet

US pick for World Bank makes case to board directors

WASHINGTON, 12 April — Jim Yong Kim, the US nominee to head the World Bank, on Wednesday told the bank's board of directors that he would not hesitate to question the status quo and do his best to help the world's poorest. In a two and a half page address made public by the Treasury Department, Kim outlined the reasons why he believed his training as a public health expert and former president of Dartmouth College equipped him with the skills needed to take over the World Bank in June when current president Robert Zoellick steps down.

Dartmouth College president Jim Yong Kim, US President Barack Obama's nominee to president of the World Bank, reaches out to shake hands as he arrives for meetings at the bank's headquarters on 11 April, 2012.— INTERNET

"You would find in me someone who asks hard questions about the status quo and is not afraid to challenge existing orthodoxies," Kim said. "I'd bring rigor, objectivity and a focus on data that help all of us define and achieve our shared vision of securing strong economic growth and delivering greater opportunity for the world's poor," he said. Kim was expected to undergo a round of questioning from bank directors as the two other contenders for the job — Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and former Colombian Finance Minister Jose Antonio Ocampo — already have done.

A decision on Zoellick's successor is to be made public by the time the bank and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, hold semi-annual meetings in Washington 20 to 22 April . Kim has been on a world tour that has taken him to Asia and Latin America to meet finance leaders and to try to drum up support for his US-backed candidacy.—*Internet*

BMW sees record sales thanks to China demand

BERLIN, 12 April — German luxury carmaker BMW has posted record quarterly sales for the first three months of the year, a period in which it sold more cars in China than in the US for the first time. Overall sales hit 425,528 vehicles, a rise of 11.2% on a year earlier, with the BMW, Rolls-Royce and Mini brands all reporting record sales.

The company sold 80,014 cars in China, 37% more than a year ago. BMW said it expected record sales to continue throughout thi2s year."The BMW Group achieved an all-time high in sales last month and the best quarter in its history," said sales boss Ian Robertson.

The carmaker is due to publish its first quarter financial results on 3 May. In 2011, BMW profits jumped by 51% to 4.9b euros ($6.4b; £4b).On Tuesday, rival Audi, which is owned by Volkswagen, said it had sold 346,100 cars in the first quarter, an increase of 10.8% on a year earlier.—*Internet*

BMW said it expected to achieve record sales for 2012 as a whole. INTERNET

Business

Photos capturing images of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Akyo Day

Kyeegon Station Pandal packed with revellers in Kalay on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day. (MIN THAN WAI-KALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

A decorated float of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival in Mandalay.
MNA

Revellers and throwers at NAING Group Pandal in Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day.—TIN SOE

Pakokku Central Pandal on Myoma Road in Pakokku packed with merry-makers on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day.—MYANMA ALIN

Choral dancers perform dances at Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal opening ceremony on 12 April.
MNA

Decorated floats at Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal on Kandawgyi Ringroad.
MNA

Opening ceremony of Toungoo Thingyan Festival in progress.
MYANMA ALIN

Pandals on ring road of Kandawgyi Lake in Yangon Region teeming with revellers on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day.
TIN SOE

Pandal of General Administration Department of Yangon West District packed with merry-makers.—MYANMA ALIN

What we call it Thingyan: Beyond the bottle

by Nathan

New Year Water Festival, better known as Thingyan Festival, kicks off today. It derives from Pali word, "*Sankanta*," which means the transit of the sun from Pisces to Aires. It is the most significant event of festive Myanmars. The dates of celebration are calculated by lunar calendar. Other Theravada Buddhist countries in Southeast Asia—Laos, Cambodia and Thailand—have their own versions of Thingyan despite common celebration style.

However it is called Thingyan or *Songkran* or something, throwing water has the only meaning. It conveys the message that dirt of the preceding year is wash off by Thingyan water. Hit the road under scorching summer in blazing hot mid summer, clean and cold Thingyan water freshen the world.

There is also a myth about Thingyan that *Sakra*, King of Celestial Abode, descends to the earth in festival period and closely monitors how the people are behaving. The later half of 5000 *Sasana* years is said to be the *Sakra's Sasana*, meaning the King of *Devas* defends the religion founded by the Lord Buddha.

Since a couple of months before the festival, Thingyan melodies have been occupying the air and the soul of Myanmar people. *Padauk* is the essential ingredient in Thingyan songs. The yellow *Padauk* flower, *Angsana*, comes out around the festival period only once a year, making it the crowning icon of faith and loyalty.

Another significant feature of Thingyan is çatudisa, free snacks offered to anyone from all directions, the east, the west, the south and the north. Mont-lone-ye-paw, floating rice ball with the nucleus of jaggery sweet, is the most famous and loved snack çatudisa pandals offer. Chili is the alternative to jaggery sweet in some rice balls, used to jolly the unlucky eater into unkind spiciness.

The whole nation thrills to the festival which is also the gazetted holiday. Each people will have their own ways to spend the 10-night holiday. Some move into the shade of *Dhamma*, observing Sabbath and registering at meditation centres. Some opt to take a vacation. The majority choose to mingle with the crowd, playing water.

As all other festivals, Thingyan has adverse consequences. Traffic accidents are on the increase during in festival. According to police source, 69 revellers

injured in 32 accidents during the last year's celebration in Yangon alone. Wet and slippery roads and especially drink-driving are to blame for road accidents. Another sad thing is that most victims killed in those accidents are the young people on whom the country's future depends. Drivers should not hold the wheel with excess alcohol especially in the festival when most merry-makers are drunk. Drunken brawls are also common among young revellers during the festival.

The joy for a moment should not lead to the tragedy. And drinking never pays. There are still many other ways to enjoy Thingyan without booze.

Kawlin plans to organize Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival on grander scale

KAWLIN, 12 April—A coordination meeting on organizing the Kawlin Township Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival of Sagaing Region was held at Zartiman Hall of Township General Administration Department on 9 April.

At the meeting, Township Administrator U Myo Naung instructed officials to hold the festival on a grand scale like that of previous year and manage dancing and entertainment programmes, security and water supply tasks.

Daw Kyawt Yin Win of Township Development Affairs Committee reported on supply of water, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Htay Myint, Deputy Commanding Officer U Kyaw Tint of Township Auxiliary Fire Battalion and ward administrators on security measures and holding of the festival.

Station Superintendent (Upper Class) U Tin Shein of Myanma Railways reported on arrangements for entertainments. Deputy Head of department U Kyaw Htoo submitted reports on plan to pay respects to the aged of above-85 years old on the New Year Day.

Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival will be held in Kawlin on a grand scale.—*Myanma Alin*

CSC ISSUED: ***In implementing Moe Pwint-2 Plan, Head of Mawlamyine Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Myint Aung and staff made citizenship scrutiny cards for the local people. On 20 March, they issue cards to the administrator of Kadoe, Kawhnat and Kawhla Village-tract of Mawlamyine Township.***

TOWNSHIP IMMIGRATION

Thuta Yadana Library opened in Thongwa Township

YANGON, 12 April—The opening ceremony of Thuta Yadana Library was held in Patokkyi Village of Bagantaung Village-tract in Thongwa Township of Yangon South District on 7 April morning.

Thongwa Township Administrator U Kyaw Thaung, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Tin Tin Htwe, Administrator of Bagantaung Village-tract U Kyaw Myint and Library Committee Chairman U Aung Nyein formally opened the building of library.

After that, the Township Administrator donated 100 books, Township IPRD 100 books, the chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Ma Nyo 100 books, wellwisher U Naing Oo-Daw San San Win and family land plot for the library, U Zaw Win-Daw Ohn Htay and family K 70,000 and books, U Kyaw Myint-Daw Mar Mar Sein and family one clock, four feet fluorescence lamp and books. Officials accepted the cash and kind donation.

The building of the library was constructed at a cost of K 1 million by the State and K 500,000 by the local people. The facility is 24 feet long, 14 feet wide and 12 feet high one storey building.

Myanma Alin

Taxation over salary clarified

YANGON, 12 April—Yangon Region Internal Revenue Department organized a talk on taxation over salary at the hall of State Lottery Department of Internal Revenue Department, here, on 9 April.

Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe delivered an address at the ceremony.

Assistant Director Daw Phyu Pyar of Yangon Region Internal Revenue Department explained calculation for levying income tax from salary and work procedures and replied to queries raised by those present.—*IRD*

DISTRICT NEWS

Natural hutching of golden Hamilton's Carps demonstrated

BHAMO, 12 April—The natural hutching of golden Hamilton's carps was demonstrated to fish breeders in Bhamo Township so as to develop the rural areas.

On 28 March, in-charge of the Bhamo fish farming camp Daw Thin Thin Hlaing and staff demonstrated natural hutching of fish.

Head of District Fisheries Department Daw Nyunt May and Head of Township Cooperative Department Daw Ohn Myint distributed 10500 fingerlings of golden Hamilton's Carps to 15 small fish ponds of Shwepyitha Cooperative Society through Shwepyitha administrator, and fish ponds of Aung, Sanda, Aung Hsu Pan, Khaing Mye Aung and Pan Cherry cooperative societies.

Fisheries Department

Strong winds, heavy rains hit Sagaing

SAGAING, 12 April—The strong winds hit Sagaing of Sagaing Region in addition to heavy rains at 8.15 pm on 7 April.

Due to blow of strong winds, a lamp post broke and a Banyan tree fell down on the road.

Under the supervision of the Township Administrator, the Township Electrical Officer and workers, ward administrator and party, members of fire brigade cleared debris from the road as much as possible and carried out supply of electricity as usual to the local people.—*Kyemon*

Over 150 Maha Thingyan…

(from page 16)

Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein launched the fountain. Choral dance troupes performed dances and songs. A total of 11 pandals were opened in the district.

Region Planning and Economy Minister U Than Myint extended greetings at opening ceremony of Yangon North District Pandal which was formally opened by Region Ministers Daw San San Nwe, U Soe Min and U Than Myint and District Administrator U Nay Lin. A toal of 15 pandals were opened in the district.

Region Planning and Economy Minister U Than Myint and Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Nyan Win, District Aministrator U Nay Lin and Township Administrator U Htein Soe formally opened the opening ceremony of Hlaingthaya Township Central Pandal and Industrial Zone Ward (5) Pandal.

Pandals in Yangon were packed with revellers and pagodas and monasteries with those who did meritorious deeds.—*MNA*

Yangon Region Chief Minister attends Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal opening ceremony

***Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe attends opening ceremony of Yangon Mayor's Thingyan Pandal.*—MNA**

YANGON, 12 April— The opening ceremony of Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal was held at the pandal this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Chief Justice of Region High Court U Win Swe, the Region Hluttaw deputy speaker, region ministers, the region advocate-general, the region auditor-general, their wives, diplomats in Yangon and their families, departmental officials, choral dance troupes and guests.

Yangon Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Hla Myint formally opened the ceremony.

After enjoying performances of dancers, the region chief minister and wife, the region Hluttaw speaker and the Yangon mayor presented cash awards to choral dance troupes. Then the chief minister cordially greeted diplomats and their families.

The staff of Yangon City Development Committee sprinkled water on the region chief minister and guests with Thabyay branches. The pandal will be kept opened till 16 April from 8 am to 5 pm.

The region chief minister and wife, and party also attended the opening ceremony of ninth Rakhine traditional Thingyan Festival (Yangon) organized by Rakhine Literature and Culture Group (Yangon) under the leadership of Rakhine National Race Affairs Ministry in Yangon Region. Rakhine National Race Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung extended greetings at the ceremony.

Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, wife Daw Khin Thet Htay and guests and members of township associations in Rakhine State poured scented water on Buddha Images. Rakhine traditional cultural troupes entertained the guests and the Region Chief Minister and party played water with Rakhine nationals.—*MNA*

Central Pandal of Yangon South District seen with opening ceremony for Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME of Yangon South District.

MNA

Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME observed in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day

Yein Troupes perform their dance at Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal's opening ceremony.

MNA

***Thingyan lovers play with water at Sky Net and Shwe FM happily.*—MNA**

Golden Triangle Family Thingyan Pandal joyfully participates in Water Festival.

MNA

Kachin State Chief Minister tees off golf tourney, inspects water throwing pandals in Myitkyina

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — A golf tournament was held to mark Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival for 1374 ME, at Northern Star Golf Club in Myitkyina in Kachin State yesterday.

Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai teed off to open the tournament.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister visited water throwing pandals of ministries and companies.

At 7 pm, the Chief Minister attended a presentation ceremony for the tournament and dinner hosted to mark the tournament at the City Hall in Myitkyina.—*MNA*

Water throwing pandals in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone opened

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April— Water throwing pandals at Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone were opened today to mark the Maha Thingyan festival.

The water throwing pandals of the Golden Guest Hotel and Shwe Thanlwin Company outside the Golden Guest Hotel was opened this morning by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and patron of Shwe Thanlwin Company Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Ni. Artistes and dance troupes entertained the visitors with song and traditional dances.

Shwe Thanlwin Company is donating charity food and snacks to visitors during the festival.

Similarly, the water throwing pandal of Max Myanmar Group of Companies outside Royal Kumudra Hotel was opened by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and U Khin Maung Kywe of Max Myanmar Group of Companies.

The water throwing pandal of Theim Group Company Ltd outside Hotel Shwe Pyi Daw was opened by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and Chairman of Theim Group Co Ltd U Thein Aung.

The water throwing pandal of Nay Pyi Taw FC outside Oasis Hotel was opened by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and CEO of Nay Pyi Taw FC U Kyaw Oo.

Artistes and dancers performed traditional dances at the opening ceremonies of the pandals.

Artistes and vocalists including Yan Aung, Nay Aung, Ye Aung, Kyaw Ye Aung, Zin Waing, Min Maw Kun, Pho Thauk Kyar, Hat Kat, Ringo, Bo Phyu, Naw Naw, Thar Soe, Chan Chan, Jenny, Rebacca Win, Nilar Aung, May Thu and Twetar and traditional dancers will entertain the visitors with songs and dances during the festival.

MNA

***Water throwing pandal of Max Myanmar Group of Companies opens with dancing.*—MNA**

Union A&I Minister inspects plantations at Shwedaung agricultural research farm

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing yesterday afternoon viewed pollination at 100-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy seed production farm of Shwedaung Agricultural Research Farm in Wundwin Township.

Indian agriculturist Mr Mohamad CD Siddqui and Myanmar agriculturist U Naing Kyi Win reported on success in paddy seed production farm.

Officials also reported on pollination at 100-acre Surya Kiran hybrid sunflower strain plantation.

The Union Minister also viewed thriving of 100-acre Ngwechi long staple cotton farm and 100-acre Myanmar Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation.

In meeting with officials, the Union Minister stressed the need to produce quality seeds that grants cent per cent sprouting of plants for the farmers. Scholars are to strive for production of quality seeds with cost effectiveness for the farmers. Only when quality seeds are to be used, will crops of Myanmar have stable market in the world. Studying modern agriculture technology, experiences from scholars are to be compiled as research paper.

The Union Minister presented cash assistance as New Year gift and footstuff to the scholars and workers of the farms.—MNA

***Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing views pollination at 100-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy seed production farm of Shwedaung Agricultural Research Farm in Wundwin Township.*—MNA**

Shwelinban Industrial Zone fire put out 50 minutes later

Authorities call on people to speed up fire preventive measures

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—Fire which broke out at YC Cork factory in Shwelinban Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon Region at 2.50 pm today was put out 50 minutes later.

Making holes at cork containers with electricity started the fire. Thirty fire engines and five administration vehicles rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire in minutes. A Mark II car, one RC factory building with corrugated-iron-sheet roof, machines in the factory and raw materials were lost in the fire.

A series of fire outbreaks around the country in every year not only led to losses for victims but undermined urban and rural development and national development.

As now is hot season which is more likely to start a fire, TV, radio, dailies and journals are constantly warning the people to take fire preventive measures. Fire bridges in towns and villages are giving educative talks, demonstrating fire drills and conducting surprise checks whether the fire is used systematically.

The authorities concerned are trying to raise public awareness of the risks of negligence fire—ambers, high temperature in electronic equipment and wires, and cigarette which is not completely extinguished.—*MNA*

***Fire fighters put out fire at YC Cork Factory in Shwelinban Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon Region.*—MNA**

Two categories for English set for National Literary Awards

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April— National Literary Award scrutinizing committee has announced that it has set two categories for the National Literary Award for books in English as fiction and non-fiction genres as from 2011.

The literary award for English genre was added to the literary awards for books in Myanmar last year after it was suggested at the first meeting of the National literary award scrutinizing committee which has been organized for 2010 and 2011.

The committee selected the book whether it was fiction or non-fiction written in English by a Myanmar citizen last year.

The committee has increased the categories into two : fiction and non-fiction: this year with the aim of encouraging English language learning in Myanmar, propagating Mynmar history, culture and arts and assisting the Myanmar literary world and writers.

Similarly, one award for book in English would be included in the Sarpay Beikman manuscript awards for 2011.— *MNA*

Nurturing of Palethwe hybrid paddy demonstrated in Mawlamyinegyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 12 April—Farmers of Mawlamyinegyun Township observed cultivation pattern of thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation of farmer U Aye Naing in Gyongyonkya Village in Techaung Village-tract of the township on 7 April morning.

The observation was held at the farmer educative plot of Township Agriculture Department in Gyongyonkya Village.

The observation was supervised by Head of Township Agriculture Department U Kyaw Htay and staff.

Farmers of 27 villages from the township viewed thriving of best quality of ears of paddy at Palethwe paddy plantation.

The head of Township Agriculture Department, Deputy Heads of Department Daw Thein Win and Daw Moh Moh Than, Assistant Head of Department U Myint Sein explained nurturing of Palethwe hybrid paddy plants, method of cultivation and 14-point good agriculture patterns in detail.—*Myanma Alin*

MLF invites books, cash donations

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broadening the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation.

Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.

Title recipient Sayadaws honoured in Hsipaw

HSIPAW, 12 April—A ceremony to honour members of the Sangha offered religious titles by the State was held at Namlan Myole Monastery in Hsipaw Township on 5 April.

At the ceremony, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people paid homage to Dhammakahtika Bahujana Hitadhara title recipient Bawkyo Phayagyi Monastery Sayadaw and Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title recipient Namlan Myole Monastery Bhaddanta Ñanobhasa.—*Myanma Alin*

DISTRICT NEWS

Call centre kept open in Maha Thingyan Festival period

YANGON, 12 April—The call centre will be kept open to give 24-hour services of replying to the any questions during the period of Maha Thingyan Festival.

"Twenty-four-hour services will be provided to the users during the period of Maha Thigyan Festival. Call rate will be set K 30 per minute as original price of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications. Services will cover the existing five sectors," explained an official of the call centre.

As information desk of the call centre will be opened during the Thingyan holidays, the people are interested in its services.

Call centre can give services for businesses on incoming and outgoing telephone calls of companies, offers of commodities and other business services.

Anyone may dial 1876 for communication and other information, and general matters urgently during the period of Maha Thingyan Festival.

Thoon Watthan

CASH DONATED: ***Wellwisher U Aung Than Nyunt-Daw Khin Thiri Aung donate K 100,000 to the medical fund of Yedashe Home for the Aged through Head of the Home U Maung Maung on 1 April.***
MYANMA ALIN

CASH DONATED: ***Cash donation was held for Jivitadana Clinic at Home for the Aged in Yedashe Township on 7 April. In commemoration of the wedding reception, Ko Aung Kyaw Oo-Ma Win Win Soe of Ward 3 in Yedashe donate K 100,000 to Chairman of the Home Administrative Board U Myint Moe.***—MYANMA ALIN

Rural Library opened in Machanbaw Township

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—A ceremony to open new building of Sheinhti Library was held in Deinchet Village in Ingadeinchet Village-tract in Machanbaw Township of Putao District in Kachin State on 29 March morning.

At the ceremony, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Nan Zae Phon Hsan and Village administrator U Nan Sho Htin cut the ribbon to open the building.

At first, the village administrator made a speech. The head of Township Information and Public Relations Department explained durability of the library.

After that, the chairman of the Library Committee accepted the documentary video on Ayaykyonyin Kyemon Shide donate by Myanmar Libraries Foundation and 200 books and publications by Township Information and Public Relations Department.—*Township IPRD*

MES Vice-Chairman leaves for Japan

YANGON, 12 April—A team comprising CEC members U Hla Khaing, U Tin Maung Win, U Po Aye and Work Committee member U Aung Naing Thu led by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society U Linn left here by air for Japan on 9 April evening to attend the Asian Welding Federation Meeting and the International Welding Technological Show to be held in Osaka of Japan from 11 to 13 April.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Joint General Secretary U Ohn Myint of Myanmar Engineering Society.

On completion of the meeting, they will visit the JFE workshops to meet Myanmar trainees who are learning welding courses of JFE Engineering Co Ltd of Japan.—*MES*

Fire breaks out at Haymawun Market in South Okkalapa Township

YANGON, 12 April—A fire broke out at Haymawun Market on Myitta Road of Ward 10 in South Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region on 10 April.

The outbreak of fire started at 1.20 am. It was died out at 2.38 am and put out at 2.55 am.

In the incident, the fire destroyed over 1200 shops of three complexes of Haymawun Market.

Fire brigade members put out the fire with the use of 43 fire engines, six supporting vehicles, five water tankers and nine management vehicles, totalling 63.

The fire started from mosquito coin of the night guard between No. 2 and No. 3 complexes of the market.—*Myanma Alin*

Tatkon Township holds coord meeting on planning and implementing committee

TATKON, 12 April—The Planning and Implementing Committee of Tatkon Township held the coordination meeting No. 1/2012 at the hall of Township General Administration Department at 2 pm on 6 April.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area General Admnistration Department U Maung Maung and Township Administrator U Aye Lu delivered addresses.

Head of Township Planning Department U Win Naing reported on process of drawing the plans.

Member of the committee township level departmental officials, townselders, social and economic organization members and officials participated in the discussions.—*Kyemon*

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Four charged over bin fire murder

LONDON, 12 April — Three men and a woman have been charged with the murder of a man found burned in an industrial bin in Southampton. The body of Jamie Dack, 22, was found on Sunday after fire crews were called to the Empress Road Industrial Estate. Ryan Ian Woodmansey, 31, Andrew William Christopher Dwyer-Skeats, 25, Lee Matthew Nicholls, 28, and Donna Louise Chalk, 20, face murder charges.

They remain in custody and are due to appear at Southampton Magistrates' Court on Thursday. All four also face charges of false imprisonment and conspiracy to rob Mr Dack. Mr Woodmansey, of no fixed abode, Mr Dwyer-Skeats, of Earls Road, Southampton, and Mr Nicholls, of Southampton Street, Southampton, were also charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Jamie Dack. Ms Chalk's address was given as Earls Road, Southampton.

The body of Mr Dack, from Millbrook Road West, was found by fire crews who were called to Dukes Road on the industrial estate at about 03:10 BST on Sunday. Hampshire Police said they were still asking for witnesses to contact them. Mr Dack had been living at Patrick House, a hostel for homeless young people in Millbrook, Southampton in the weeks before his death.—*Internet*

***The body of Jamie Dack was found in an industrial bin on Sunday.—*INTERNET**

Climbers aim to replicate tough 1963 Everest climb

KATHMANDU, 12 April — A flood of US climbers is taking aim at Mount Everest this year as the 50th anniversary of the first US conquest of the famous peak nears, with one team set to try and replicate the historic ascent along a difficult and rarely used route. Five US mountaineers climbed the 8,850 metre (29,035 feet) Everest, the world's highest peak, in May 1963. Two went along the untested West Ridge route and three along the traditional South East Ridge route, also known as the South Col route.

This year, two climbers in a nine-member team led by Corry Richards will climb the difficult West Ridge route, while the others will go along the Southeast Ridge route, pioneered by New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. Conrad Anker, 49, a member of the team and a two-time Everest climber, said that if weather and physical abilities allowed, both groups would try and meet at the summit. "That will be the plan," Anker told *Reuters* before leaving for the mountain in March.

Another American team consisting of four climbers led by James Ryrie Norton will also be on the West Ridge route, Nepal's Tourism Ministry said."These two expeditions are trying to replicate what the US team in 1963 did on Everest," said Elizabeth Hawley, Kathmandu-based historian and an unofficial authority on Everest. Hawley, 88, unofficial arbiter of climbing related disputes and chronicler of Everest climbs, considers the 1963 American ascent to be the biggest Everest milestone after the pioneering feat of Hillary and Norgay because the route is long and so difficult it is rarely used today. —*Reuters*

German drivers offered free public transport

BERLIN, 12 April — Motorists in the German City of Leipzig are to be offered free public transport this week in a bid to cut congestion. The authorities' decision comes amid concerns over commuting times and lengthening traffic jams. The hope is that motorists will be persuaded to leave their cars at home permanently.

They will have to produce vehicle or driving licences. Families and groups can also travel together on a single document. Rising fuel prices in Germany have led to recent calls for the tax on petrol to be cut, although commuters are already able to offset their journeys to work against income tax.

Internet

UK can extradite five terror suspects to US

PARIS, 12 April — Europe's human rights court ruled Tuesday that Britain can send a radical Muslim cleric and four other suspects to the United States to face terrorism charges in a case that has been closely watched as an indicator of whether tough US prisons could influence extradition policy. The court said Britain would not violate EU human rights rules by extraditing the suspects, who could face life sentences in a maximum-security prison.

The long-running legal battle centered on Mustafa Kamal Mustafa, also known as Abu Hamza al-Masri, considered Britain's most recognizable extremist, thanks in part to his fiery rhetoric and hook for a hand. He has long been a figure of tabloid newspaper scorn. Al-Masri and the other men had argued that in the US they could face prison conditions and jail terms that would expose them to "torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" in breach of the European human rights code.

The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, rejected those claims, saying in its ruling Tuesday that "detention conditions and length of sentences of five alleged terrorists would not amount to ill-treatment if they were extradited to the USA." However, the court said the five "should not be extradited" until its judgment becomes final — a move that could take months — or until a possible appeals process ends.—*Internet*

People watch police investigate the scene where three people were shot and killed at an in-home day care in Brooklyn Park, Minn, on 9 April, 2012. No arrests were immediately made.
INTERNET

***In this file photo of an artist rendering released by Lucas Films, a drawing of the proposed Industry Light & Magic campus, is shown. Lucasfilm Ltd, the force behind the Star Wars movies, said it has abandoned plans to build a big digital production studio on historic farmland in northern California, citing opposition from neighbours worried the environmental impact.—*INTERNET**

Medical emergency delays Titanic memorial cruise

LONDON, 12 April — A cruise ship retracing the route of the Titanic had to interrupt its journey on Tuesday because of a medical emergency on board, organizers said. The Titanic Memorial Cruise — on its way to the North Atlantic site where the Titanic hit an iceberg and sank 100 years ago — had to turn back briefly to the Irish coast so that a sick passenger could be airlifted to a hospital.

Organizers did not identify the passenger or describe the ailment, but the BBC reported that one of its cameramen, Tim Rex, was airlifted by rescue helicopter "as a medical precaution." The 12-night memorial cruise aboard the MS Balmoral left the Irish town of Cobh late Monday to cross the Atlantic, tracing the route of the doomed liner's maiden voyage in April 1912. Like the Titanic, it began its journey Sunday at southern England's Southampton. After Tuesday's brief delay, the ship resumed its itinerary and is expected to call in Halifax, Canada on 16 April and in New York on 19 April.

The ship, which is carrying 1,309 passengers — including relatives of some of the more than 1,500 Titanic passengers who died — seeks to recreate the Titanic experience, minus the disaster. Many passengers, crew members and stewards are dressing in period costumes. Passengers are eating meals from the Titanic's menu, while a live band plays music of the era. Two special memorial services are to take place over the weekend: The first close to midnight on 14 April, when the Titanic hit the iceberg, and the second on early 15 April, when the ship sank. The Balmoral is operated by Fred Olsen Cruise Lines.

Internet

Heart test could predict future attacks in elderly

NEW YORK, 12 April — A test to measure the heart's electrical activity could help predict future heart attacks in otherwise healthy adults over 70, said a US study on Tuesday. Researchers followed 2,192 healthy adults aged 70-79 for a period of eight years, according to the study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association.* The subjects started the study by getting an electrocardiogram, often called an EKG or ECG, which measures the heart's overall health.

People who showed abnormalities in their EKGs saw a higher risk of heart disease over the course of the study than people whose EKGs were normal, even after researchers adjusted for risk factors like diabetes and high cholesterol. Those who had minor abnormalities show up on their first test had a 35 percent higher risk of heart attack, while those with major abnormalities had a 51 percent increased risk, said the findings. "This research is taking the information from an EKG and adding it to other traditional risk factors to better predict who is going to have a heart attack," said co-author Douglas Bauer, director of the University of California San Francisco Division of General Internal Medicine Research Programme.

However, organizations such as the American Academy of Family Physicians do not back routine use of EKGs for cardiac screening in low-risk patients, citing high costs and a lack of evidence that the test would improve health outcomes. "For the time being, in the absence of clear evidence of benefit and no clear implications for costs, the best advice is not to perform ECGs in asymptomatic patients, regardless of age," said an accompanying editorial by Philip Greenland of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.— *Internet*

Boy, 5, brings 50 packets of heroin to school for show and tell

BRIDGEPORT, 12 April — Police say a five-year-old Connecticut boy brought 50 packets of heroin to school for show and tell, and his stepfather has been arrested. Bridgeport police tell the Connecticut Post that 35-year-old Santos Roman went to the Barnum School on Monday to retrieve the drugs and found police waiting for him.

He was detained on $100,000 bail on risk of injury to a minor and drug charges.

Police say the boy wore Roman's jacket to school on Monday. When it came time for his show-and-tell presentation, the kindergartner displayed bags of heroin. The teacher confiscated the drugs and told the principal, who called police. The boy was put in state custody until other relatives could be located.

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DAN JIANG VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAN JIANG VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

US SEC sues AutoChina for alleged stock manipulation

WASHINGTON, 12 April— The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has sued AutoChina International and 11 investors over alleged stock manipulation. They have been accused of unlawfully buying and selling shares in a bid to artificially inflate trading figures so the company could gain "favourable loan terms". AutoChina says it is the country's biggest commercial vehicle sales and leasing firm.

The company has denied the charges. It said that the SEC's allegations were "without merit". "The company intends to defend against the claims vigorously and believes that all of the evidence it is aware of contradicts the SEC's allegations," the firm said in a statement.

In its complaint, the SEC has alleged that the defendants and others deposited $60m (£38m) into US-based brokerage accounts starting from October 2010. It said the average daily trading volume of the company's shares jumped to more than 139,000 shares between 1 November 2010 and 31 January 2011, compared with just 18,000 in the three months prior to the brokerage accounts being opened.

The SEC has alleged that several of those accused were related to the company's chairman and that these accounts were only used to trade AutoChina shares.

Internet

Several Chinese firms have been investigated by the SEC in recent months. INTERNET

Thailand's Phuket Airport reopens after Tsunami threat

BANGKOK, 12 April — Services at Phuket Airport resumed Thursday after being shut down during a Tsunami warning in six coastal provinces sparked by a 8.6-magnitude earthquake off Indonesia, an official said.

The airport was reopened Wednesday night soon after Tsunami watch was lifted by the National Disaster Warning Centre, said Bangorurat Shinaprayon, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The centre on Wednesday afternoon issued a Tsunami warning to the six provinces along the Andaman Sea — Krabi, Phuket, Phang Nga, Ranong, Satun and Trang; however, it later revoked the warning at about 8 pm local time when it was clear the earthquake off Indonesia did not generate disastrous Tsunami.

Phuket International Airport was closed for several hours during the disaster scare, with more than 15 flights delayed. —*Xinhua*

Polarised images of the red giant W Hydrae show the central star and a sphere of dust surrounding it. INTERNET

Stardust recycling mystery solved

WASHINGTON, 12 April— A long-standing mystery about how dying stars spew out the material of future planets is now solved, scientists say. While stars like our Sun are known to eject much of their mass in their final years, it has remained unclear just how the dust is blown away. Scientists reporting in Nature describe an astronomical study of extraordinary resolution to tackle the mystery.

They found dust grains of nearly a millionth of a metre across, big enough to be pushed out by dying stars' light. The team of astronomers from Australian and European universities took a look at three so-called red giant stars - stars that were once like our Sun is now, but that have exhausted their supply of hydrogen and grown to gargantuan proportions.

In a process that is an extreme case of the kind of solar wind that our own Sun experiences, such stars blow much of their mass away in the form of gas and grains of mineral material on their way to becoming white dwarfs. Lead author of the study Barnaby Norris, of the University of Sydney, told BBC News that the stars were "the galaxy's great recyclers" — the material that they spit out "goes on to make the next generation of stars and planets".—*Internet*

India Maoists release Italian hostage Paolo Bosusco

NEW DELHI, 12 April — Italian hostage Paolo Bosusco has been freed by India's Maoist rebels after nearly a month in captivity. Mr Bosusco, 54, was abducted on 14 March, along with fellow Italian Claudio Colangelo, 61, while trekking in a tribal area of Orissa state. Mr Colangelo was released on 25 March.

The exact terms of the release are not known but on Tuesday a court freed the wife of Maoist leader Sabyasachi Panda. She was one of several jailed rebels whose release the Maoists had demanded. State legislator Jhina Hikaka, who was seized on 23 March by another group of Maoists, remains in custody.

After his release, Mr Bosusco told a local television channel in the state capital, Bhubaneswar, that he had been treated well by the rebels. "I'm in good health.

There's nothing to worry about. I love Orissa and its people," he said. Mr Bosusco, who has lived in the state for over a dozen years, said he had visited the area where he was held many times in the past. "But going to there as a tourist is different from going there as a hostage," he said. Earlier, the rebels handed over Mr Bosusco to Dandapani Mohanty, one of the mediators, who brought him to Bhubaneswar.

He has now been taken to the state guest house where he is meeting Italian and Indian officials.

"The first thing he wants to do is fly to Italy and meet his family," Mr Mohanty told journalists. The Maoists have a strong presence in several eastern states, including Orissa, and have been described by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as India's biggest internal security threat.

The rebels say they are fighting for a communist state and for the rights of tribal people and the rural poor.

Internet

Mr Bosusco runs an adventure tourism agency in Orissa.—INTERNET

Car mounts pavement in Kyoto, injuring 12

OSAKA, 12 April — A car mounted a pavement in central Kyoto in wesern Japan Thursday, injuring 12 people, including 6 in critical condition, local press reported. The accident happened at around 1 pm local time when a driver drove the car on the sidewalk and hit pedestrians nearby in Gion, one of the historical district of Kyoto City. The cause of the accident is still unknown.—*Xinhua*

First int'l digital photo and sign show opens in Vietnam

HANOI, 12 April—The International Digital Photo & Sign Show 2012, the first of this kind held in Vietnam, opened in southern Ho Chi Minh City on Thursday, attracting many domestic and world leading companies in the field from the United States, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia.

Organized by the Exporum Company and Eifec Com Ltd, the exhibition had more than 100 booths displaying the newest products of various brands, including Tamron, Benro, MeFoto, Pentax, Recoh, Nokon, Olympus, Panasonic, Fuji and Samsung, according to the *Vietnam News Agency*. Products of new technologies were also on display, such as LED screen, LED electronic boards, Lumi Letter made by Daikan (Japan), IEC, Star Media Group and Vinacom.

The show was also seen as a playing ground for those interested in digital camera and sign board advertisement, with various sideline events held during the three-day show, including a market for camera and equipment, seminar on camera and sign board advertisement, a photo exhibition of the city women photographers' club, and a photo contest titled "Digital photos accompany you" and "Brightening Vietnamese beauty".

The show will be open through 14 April.—*Xinhua*

A pedestrian walks in snow in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 12 April, 2012. A snowfall hit the city on Thursday.—XINHUA

'Jesus Tomb' controversy rages as archaeologists explore another 2,000-year-old tomb

Archaeologists working in Jerusalem claim that a discovery they made inside a burial tomb, dating back to the time of Jesus Christ, could shed new light on the origins of Christianity. Biblical historian James Tabor, professor and chair of religious studies at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, is working with the team, led by controversial filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici. Using a camera mounted on a robotic arm, the team found a 2,000-year-old engraving, which they claim depicts Jesus' resurrection, on an ossuary — a limestone burial box that contains human bones — in a first-century tomb. Their exploration of ancient life in the holy land is told in a new documentary for the Discovery Channel called "The Resurrection Tomb Mystery," which premieres on 12 April at 10 pm ET/PT. "It's almost like a moonscape feeling of something eerie, something kind of silent- a reverent feeling really," Tabor said.

'Jesus Tomb' Controversy Rages as Archaeologists Explore Another 2,000-Year-Old Tomb.

"Because these people died 2,000 years ago and now we are investigating their last memories, how they bury their dead, what they left behind, so that was there and then the excitement of, 'Well will there be something we'll find or will we find just another Jewish tomb'?"

But the team thinks they found something much more than that. Tabor believes the engraving found on the ossuary depicts the Biblical story of Jonah, who was swallowed by a whale in the Book of Jonah.

Animals' funny hairstyles

Italian researchers successfully test first robotic fish

The first robotic fish successful debuted among other real fish, paving the way for better understanding of animal collective behaviour, Italian researchers said on Wednesday. The robot capable of imitating real fish, developed by a joint collaboration between Italy's National Research Council (CNR) and the New York University (NYU), completely integrated into a group of fish and even became the school leader, Stefano Marras, the CNR researcher who carried out the test, told *Xinhua.*

The robot, developed at NYU by a research team coordinated by Italian Maurizio Porfiri, "was tested while swimming together with real fish in a water tunnel at different flow velocities," Marras said. Studying the flow structure, the group of researchers found out biomimetic locomotion was a determinant of fish preference, being fish more attracted towards the robot when its tail was beating rather than when it was statically immersed in the water. "The robotic fish left a vortex that helped the others save energy," similar to cyclists when they take advantage of wind streams behind vehicles, Marras said.

Chinese giant porcelain jar breaks world record

A colossal porcelain jar produced in the eastern city of Jingdezhen, China's porcelain hub, was certified as the world's largest porcelain jar and unveiled to public Wednesday after receiving certification from *the Guinness World* Records. "On behalf of the *Guinness World Records,* now I announce that the jar in Jiangxi was filled with 368 liters of liquor, it's a new Guinness World Record," Cheng Dong, Guinness Certification Officer of China announced.

The Guinness World Records are published annually as a book, containing a collection of world records, both human achievements and the extremes of the natural world.

The on-site certification was issued at the foot of the Sanqing Mountains in eastern Jiangxi Province. Known for its unique landscapes, the mountains were added to the World Heritage List in 2008 and the jar will stay there permanently. The jar stands at 2.1 meters high, measures 1.56 metres in diametre at its greatest, with a total weight of about 2,000 kg.

It went on display after being fired for 16 days in a chartered kiln in Jingdezhen, a city in the province of Jiangxi which boasts a 1,700-year history of producing fine pottery.

"Technique used in the firing and adorning process will open a new chapter in the history of China's contemporary porcelain," Cheng said. "The art combines the essence of traditional porcelain while exploring it from a contemporary perspective." "The kiln can reach a temperature of 1,320 degrees," said Wang Zhigang, who was in charge of the application for the *Guinness World Record.*

News Album

Lady Gaga confirms Born This Way Ball UK tour dates

LONDON, 12 April—Lady Gaga has confirmed details of the European leg of her Born This Way Ball world tour, including shows in London and Manchester. The singer will play Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 8 September and Manchester Arena on Tuesday 11 September. Gaga confirmed a total of 21 concerts in Europe, beginning in Sofia, Bulgaria on 14 August. Tickets for the UK gigs go on sale on Friday 13 April. The Born This Way Ball begins in Seoul, South Korea on 27 April, before coming to Europe later in the summer.

In a statement the singer described the production as "spectacular". She added: "The Born This Way Ball is an Electro-Metal Pop-Opera; the tale of the Beginning, the genesis of the Kingdom of Fame. How we were birthed and how we will die celebrating." Lady Gaga released her most recent album Born This Way in 2011. She has now sold more than 15 million albums around the world. It's been announced that reformed rockers The Darkness will support Gaga for the European gigs.

Lady Gaga

Lead singer Justin Hawkins told Newsbeat: "I don't expect it to be plain sailing, but it never is. It's not supposed to be. "I'm surprised that we're considered heavy enough for it. "I think she likes a lot of stuff that's more extreme than what we do. Obviously, I'm delighted.—*Internet*

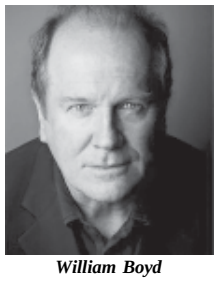
Veronique Peck (R), widow of actor Gregory Peck, and her son Anthony Peck pose at a screening celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Academy Award winning film "To Kill A Mockingbird" at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences in Beverly Hills, California on 11 April, 2012. INTERNET

William Boyd takes James Bond back to 1960s in new 007 novel

LONDON, 12 April — Booker-nominated author William Boyd is taking on the mission to write a new James Bond novel. The as-yet-untitled book will appear in 2013, the 60th anniversary of the super-spy's first literary outing, in Ian Fleming's Casino Royale. Boyd has revealed that his story will mark a return to "classic Bond" and will be set in the late 1960s. He is the third author in recent years to be invited by the Ian Fleming estate to write an official Bond novel. Before him came American thriller writer Jeffery Deaver, who penned Carte Blanche in 2011; and Sebastian Faulks, whose Devil May Care was published to mark Ian Fleming's centenary in 2008.

Deaver's book, released in May last year, is set in the present day and portrayed Bond as a Royal Naval Reserve veteran whose service included a tour of Afghanistan. It has sold over 160,000 copies to date and is out in paperback next month.

Sales of Carte Blanche in its opening week were about a third of those achieved by Faulks' book in the same period.—*Internet*



William Boyd

Dame Monica Mason to receive special Olivier Award

LONDON, 12 April — Director of the Royal Ballet Dame Monica Mason is to receive a special prize at the Olivier Awards for her outstanding contribution to theatre.

Mason, who was previously a dancer with the ballet, is due to retire in July after 54 years with the company. Actors James McAvoy, Zach Braff, Lenny Henry, Elaine Paige, Patrick Stewart, David Suchet and Barbara Windsor have all been lined up to present awards. The ceremony will take place on Sunday, 15 April at London's Royal Opera House.

Monica Mason on her 54-year career with The Royal Ballet.— INTERNET

Lyricist Sir Tim Rice, best known for co-writing shows such as Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita, will also receive an outstanding contribution prize. He and Dame Monica join Harold Pinter, Dame Judi Dench and Stephen Sondheim as previous recipients of the award. Born in Johannesburg, Dame Monica moved to the UK in the 1950s after her father died suddenly. She joined the Royal Ballet when she was just 16 years old. By the age of 20, she had been given the lead role in Kenneth MacMillan's new version of Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring; and in 1968 she was promoted to principal dancer.

In the 1970s, she took on some of ballet's most famous roles — including Odette / Odile in Swan Lake. MacMillan also created four roles for her: Lescaut's Mistress in Manon, Calliope Rag in Elite Syncopations, Summer in The Four Seasons and the Midwife in Rituals.

Internet

Shah Rukh Khan to play Dhyan Chand?

MUMBAI, 12 April — For some time now, hockey legend Dhyan Chand has been in the news over some Bharat Ratna speculation. But even before the Indian government takes a final call on conferring him with the highest civilian honour, Bollywood has woken up to the wizard's magic. Apparently, multiple biopics on Chand are in the pipeline with superstar Shah Rukh Khan being one of the choices to play the sporting hero on big screen.

SRK confirms: "Yes, I have been approached for a movie based on the legendary Dhyan Chandji's life. Hockey, as a sport, isn't new to me since I have been an athlete throughout my school and college life, and I've especially played a lot of hockey." Not many may know that SRK, during his school days at St Columba's, Delhi, captained the football and hockey teams besides playing cricket at the zonal and national levels.

Of course, the actor has already had a brush with hockey in his film Chak De! India (2007), in which he played the coach of the women's national hockey team. Although details of SRK's project are currently unknown, a couple of other biopics on Chand are underway. Sources close to Chand's family reveal that Manmohan Shetty (of Walkwater Media) and actor-director Satyajeet Puri have contacted Chand's son, Ashok Kumar, regarding a film on his life.

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan

"Yes, I am going to make a biopic. And it's not like I have planned it after the success of Paan Singh Tomar or The Dirty Picture. I have been working on it for the past two years.

Internet

Premier League to launch 20 Seasons Awards

Greatest players, managers and moments in last 20 years will be honoured

The greatest players, managers and moments in Premier League history will be honoured in the 20 Seasons Awards which launches on 17th April.
INTERNET

LONDON, 12 April — This season is the 20th campaign of the Premier League and to celebrate the landmark, accolades will be awarded to the incredible people and the memorable moments that have helped make the competition the most watched in the world. The shortlists will be announced next week, and you can get involved. There are 11 categories, five of which will be determined by a public vote and six by a panel of leading football figures, journalists and commentators.

The panel will decide on:

Best Player
Best Manager
Best Team
Best Season
Most Memorable Quote

The public vote will recognize:

Best Goal
Best Match
Best Save
Best Goal Celebration

As well as those nine awards, both the public and the panel are to choose Fantasy Teams of the 20 Seasons from a shortlist of 80 players.

There are also three fact-based awards:

Most player appearances
Most goals
Most clean sheets

Fans will be able to submit their selections in the public vote categories through a specially-designed microsite on premier-league.com, which goes live on Tuesday 17th April through to Monday 30th April. As well as revealing the category shortlists, the Premier League 20 Seasons website will have video clips of all the nominations so that fans can re-live the shortlisted goals, matches, saves and celebrations to help make their selections. And the public can also select an ultimate Premier League Fantasy Team from a shortlist of the greatest players from the last 20 years. Fans can pick a goalkeeper, two centre-backs, one left-back, one right-back, two central midfielders, one right midfielder, one left midfielder and two forwards for an all-time XI. There are 10 shortlisted players in each position. The shortlists for all the categories have been created by nominations submitted by all UK national newspapers as well as the Premier League's five live Broadcast Partners in the UK. A number of the winners will be honoured at a special presentation ceremony on Tuesday 15th May.

Internet

Wigan stun United to give City hope

LONDON, 12 April — Struggling Wigan breathed life into the Premier League title race with a stunning 1-0 upset of Manchester United on Wednesday as Manchester City romped to a 4-0 win over West Bromwich Albion.

Just days after United looked to have assured themselves of a 20th league crown by opening up an eight-point lead over City, Shaun Maloney's 50th-minute winner for Wigan suggested the title race may yet have more twists in store. City's emphatic win over West Brom at Eastlands reduced United's lead at the top to five points with five games remaining, meaning Sir Alex Ferguson's side have little margin for error in their remaining fixtures.

United — who must travel to City on 30 April — looked sluggish throughout as Wigan claimed a precious three points that lifted them out of the relegation zone at the expense of Bolton.

United were fortunate not to fall behind after Wigan appeared to have taken the lead through Victor Moses midway through the first half, only for the goal to be ruled out for a foul on United goalkeeper David de Gea. But United were not so fortunate on 50 minutes when Wigan took the lead with a magical strike from Maloney, curling a superb shot beyond De Gea after a clever short corner routine. "It was a disappointing night for us, we were second to every ball in the first half and we were completely dominated by Wigan," Ferguson said. "It was one of those off nights that you sometimes get in football." The United manager was also critical of referee Phil Dowd but added: "That doesn't take away from the fact that Wigan were the better team and deserved to win." Ferguson added: "It's important to win our home games now. We'll improve from this performance, I'm sure of that." —*Internet*

Manchester United's English striker Wayne Rooney (R), English midfielder Michael Carrick (2nd L) and Mexican striker Javier Hernandez (L) wait to kick off after the Wigan goal during the English Premier League football match at The DW Stadium in Wigan, on 11 April, 2012. Wigan defeated Manchester United 1-0.—INTERNET

MLS All-Stars to take on Chelsea in July

LONDON, 12 April — English Premier League club Chelsea will take on Major League Soccer's All-Stars in the US league's annual exhibition on 25 July, MLS announced on Wednesday. The match comes six years after a select side of MLS stars shocked Chelsea 1-0 in the 2006 All-Star game at Chicago. This time around, the match will be held at PPL Park, home of the Philadelphia Union. It will be the second stop on Chelsea's US visit, following the announcement last month that they will play the Sounders in Seattle on 18 July. The MLS All-Stars will be coached by Peter Nowak, current coach of the Union. Nowak was at the helm when Dwayne De Rosario's goal gave MLS the victory over Chelsea in 2006. Chelsea chief executive Ron Gourlay said the English club were excited to have a chance at a re-match. Chelsea have played in Philadelphia before, taking on AC Milan there in 2004.— *Internet*

Coach Peter Nowak of the Philadelphia Union. English Premier League club Chelsea will take on Major League Soccer's All-Stars in the US league's annual exhibition on 25 July, MLS announced on Wednesday.— INTERNET

Bayern Munich's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer reacts after Dortmund scored during the German first division Bundesliga football match Borussia Dortmund vs FC Bayern Munich in the western German city of Dortmund.— INTERNET

Dortmund cool title talk, despite beating Bayern

DORTMUND, 12 April — Borussia Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp has insisted his team have won nothing yet, even though their 1-0 win over Bayern Munich has left them six points clear at the top of the German league.

Dortmund are on course to win a second consecutive Bundesliga title after Poland striker Robert Lewandowski's second-half strike on Wednesday left second-placed Bayern six points behind with four games left.

"We remain in the lead, but we won be celebrating in any case," insisted Klopp, whose team face Schalke, Moenchengladbach, bottom side Kaiserslautern and Freiburg on their league run in. Bayern face Mainz, Bremen, Stuttgart and Cologne in their last four league games and disappointed Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge virtually waved the white flag.

"I am 99 percent sure that Dortmund will be German champions," he admitted.

Internet

Big debts lie behind Spanish football glory

MADRID, 12 April — Spanish football may be enjoying one of its most successful eras, powered by Barcelona and Real Madrid's charge through the Champions League, but the glittering success on the pitch hides a darker story. As Real and Barca are through to the elite Champions League semi-finals, and three Spanish clubs are into the Europa League last four, a survey of the accounts of the country's top clubs reveals a tale of crippling debts and tax arrears.

Real Madrid lead Barcelona by four points at the top of La Liga, but the two global superstars also rival each other in the depth of their debts — Real have accumulated 589 million euros ($772 million) to Barcelona's 578 million euros. The archrivals' debts eclipse their revenues, which for 2010-2011 amounted to 479 million euros for Real Madrid and 450 million euros for Barcelona.

Europa League semi-finals Valencia and Atletico Madrid are also both awash with red ink, to the tune of 382 and 514 million euros respectively.But the latest figure to hit the headlines in Spain is the 752 million euros that Spain's elite clubs owe to the tax man at a time when more than five million are unemployed and the government is asking citizens for more sacrifices. The sports ministry announced a plan to ensure that football pays for its own debts. But for the moment it is unclear how they will do so.— *Internet*

Barcelona's midfielder Sergio Busquets (L) kicks a ball during the Spanish league match against Getafe CF on 10 April, 2012 in Barcelona.— INTERNET

Donald seeks to bounce back at the Heritage

AUGUSTA, 12 April — World number one Luke Donald will try to put another fruitless major campaign behind him this week as he heads the field for the US PGA Tour's Heritage tournament. The 36-year-old Englishman, who made history by becoming the first player to top the money lists on both sides of the Atlantic last year, was never in contention at the Masters last week and remains in search of his first major title. By the time he posted his final-round 68, Donald had already shot himself out of the Masters with rounds of 75, 73 and 75, finishing tied for 32nd.

"I didn't hit the ball particularly well with my irons the first couple of rounds," Donald said. "I didn't hole as many putts as I would have liked, three or four three-putts during the week. "Some positives, though," he added. "I hit a lot of fairways last week, 80 percent of fairways, which is a good stat for me."

Internet

World number one Luke Donald will try to put another fruitless major campaign behind him this week as he heads the field for the US PGA Tour's Heritage tournament.
INTERNET

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(13-4-12 09:30 am ~ 14-4-12 09:30 am) MST

- Opening
- News
- Things should be carried out in Thingyan Period & Auspicious Myanmar New Year
- News
- Meditation Centres throughout Myanmar
- Thingyan Songs and Dances
- News
- The Meaning of Flowers
- News
- Thingyan Songs & Dances
- News
- Royal Beauty & It's Creative Arts
- News
- Visitation to Mawlamyine (Part - I)
- News
- Memorial Art Exhibition For Artist U Thu Kha
- News
- Herbal medicines by Thurein "Shar Saung Let Pat (Aloe Vera Linn)"
- Myanmar Movie "The Water Festival Rain"

MYANMAR TV

(13-4-2012) (Friday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

8:10 am
3. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies

8:45 am
4. Dance of Thingyan Festival

4:20 pm
5. Song of National Races

4:35 pm
6. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (English)

5:20 pm
7. Singing In Different Versions

5:45 pm
8. Sports Highlight

6:55 pm
9. Teleplay

7:35 pm
10. Yan Aung's Passion For Thin Gyan

8:00 pm
11. News
12. Myanmar Video Feature

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 13th April, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	75/77	18/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	32/90	16/61	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	38/100	21/70	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	22/72	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	31/88	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	37/99	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	39/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	41/106	23/73	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	36/97	23/73	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	37/99	24/75	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	39/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	32/90	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	27/81	15/59	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	33/91	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	34/93	16/61	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	39/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	39/102	24/70	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	39/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	36/97	23/73	Partly cloudy	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sagaing Region,widespread in Upper Sagain, Yangon, Tanintharyi Regions and Mon State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Region and stage. Day temperature were (4°C) below April average temperatures in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin States and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chauk, Minbu and Magway(40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall were Kawthoug (1.30) inches, Co Co island (0.32) inch and Yay (0.20) inch.
Bay Inference	Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Southwest Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for sub-sequent two days	Likelihood of slight increaseof day temperatures in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Danish navy frees 12 hostages, holds16 Somali pirates

COPENHAGEN, 12 April—The Danish navy said Thursday it had stopped a pirate ship off the Somali coast, rescuing 12 Iranian and Pakistani hostages and arresting their 16 captors.

"The Danish warship *Absalon* yesterday (Wednesday) stopped a pirate mother-ship. Sixteen suspected pirates have been arrested. Twelve hostages from Pakistan and Iran have been rescued," the navy said in a statement.

"No one was injured during the operation," navy spokesman Mikael Bill told *AFP*, adding that nine of the hostages were Pakistani and three were Iranian and that they had been held by the suspected pirates for about a month.

"They were being held on their own boat," a fishing vessel, which the pirates had hijacked and used to attack other ships, Bill explained.

The operation took place Wednesday morning and was quickly over, he said, pointing out that the *Absalon*, a command and support ship which is part of a NATO-led counter-piracy mission called Ocean Shield, had not needed to use armed force.—*Internet*

Danish vessel Absalon leaves the Frederikshavn Harbour in northern Jutland, on 12 Sept, 2011.
INTERNET

***Nicolas Anelka (right) is to help coach the Shanghai Shenhua club along with his playing dutie.—*INTERNET**

Anelka named as Shenhua 'player-coach'

SHANGHAI, 12 April—French striker Nicolas Anelka has been handed a new role at Shanghai Shenhua as the Chinese Super League side sacked three assistant coaches following a dismal run of results.

The 33-year-old Anelka will become a "player-coach" at Shenhua, participating in the management of daily training, the club said on Thursday.

French head coach Jean Tigana remained on board, but the club hired four new assistant coaches—two Britons and two Frenchmen, according to a club statement.

Shenhua are now 11th in the Chinese Super League, having won only two of their five league matches so far.

Anelka, the most high-profile foreign player ever to sign for the Chinese league, said the change in coaching staff marked a "new beginning" for the team.

"Being a coach and being a player are different, but I am sure will have a better communication with my teammates on the field," he told a press conference, where Tigana was not present.

Xinhua

Malaysia to double trade with UK to nearly 13 bln USD by 2016

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 April—The United Kingdom and Malaysia agreed on Thursday to double the bilateral trade to eight billion pounds (12.74 billion US dollars) by 2016.

The two countries also decided to expand education and defence links at the end of a meeting between Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and visiting British Prime Minister David Cameron.

"We both agreed that the opportunity for us to enhance bilateral trade is simply enormous and both our economic ministers have agreed we should try to double our bilateral trade by 2016," said Najib.

"It's an ambitious goal but we will try to work towards that," Najib told a joint Press conference after meeting with Cameron at his residence in the federal administrative centre of Putrajaya.

"In trade and investment, our ambition is simple, it is to do a step change in business and investment that is why I came with a strong delegation," Cameron said.

Xinhua

Boca Juniors beats Fluminense 2-0 in Copa Libertadores

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 April—Argentina's Boca Juniors beat Brazil's Fluminense 2-0 in the Copa Libertadores group stage on Wednesday.

Fluminense still have a two-point lead over Boca in group 4 with one match remaining, but the team lost its top-ranked status in the competition to Argentina's Velez-Sarsfield, which defeated Chivas 2-0 in Mexico, also on Wednesday night.

In front of a near-capacity 36,000 crowd at Rio's Engenhao stadium, Juan Sanchez Mino and Dario Cvitanich both capitalized on defensive errors to score either side of the break for the Argentinians.

Fluminense had the chance to reduce the deficit to a goal with five minutes remaining when referee Dario Ubriaco pointed to the penalty spot after Wellington Nem was brought down by Rolando Schiavi when clear on goal.

Xinhua

***Brazil's Fluminense Fred,right, and Argentina's Boca Juniors Facundo Rocaglia, left, jump for a high ball during a Copa Libertadores soccer mach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, 11 April, 2012.—*INTERNET**

Two children killed in roadside bombing in S Afghanistan

LASHKARGAH, 12 April—Two children were killed and six other civilians injured Thursday when a roadside bomb went off in the country's southern province of Helmand, a spokesman for the provincial government said. "Two innocent children were killed and six other civilians injured when a vehicle touched off a roadside bomb on a road at about 9 am local time in Safar area of Garmasir District," spokesman Daud Ahmadi told *Xinhua*.

He blamed Taleban for the attack. Taleban militants have used Improvised Explosive Device (IED) or roadside bombs and suicide bombers in their attacks which also inflicted casualties on civilians.

A total of 3,021 Afghan civilians were killed in 2011, up by 8 percent compared with 2010, according to a United Nations annual report released in Kabul in February.

Xnihua

Over 150 Maha Thingyan Pandals opened in Yangon

YANGON, 12 April—Today is 1373 ME Maha Thingyan Akyo Day. The opening ceremonies of over 150 pandals, big and small, in Yangon were held this morning.

Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal was opened at 7.30 am and choral dance troupes performed dances at the pandal till the evening.

Region Forestry and Energy Minister U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Commissioner U Hlaing Soe Thant and Township Administrator U San Min attended opening of Maha Thingyan Pandal of Yangon East District in Thakayta Township. A total of 59 pandals were opened in Yangon East District.

Region Transportation and Communications Minister U Aung Khin, Region Electricity and Industry Minister U Nyan Tun Oo and Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu Zaw formally opened the pandal of Yangon West District in Ahlon Township. A total of 79 pandals were opened in townships of Yangon West District.

Deputy Commissioner U Sai Thaw Win extended greetings at opening ceremony Yangon South District Maha Thingyan Pandal in Thanlyin Township this morning. The township administrator, the chief of Township Police Force, the executive officers of township development affairs committee, a townselder formally opened the pandal. Region

(See page 8)

Photo shows opening ceremony of Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal.—MNA

Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival and Mayor's Pandal opened

Choral dancer troupes performing dancing entertainment at Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April—The opening ceremony of 1373 ME Mandalay Region Mandalay Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival and Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal was held this morning in front of Mandalay City Development Committee Office.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Aung and wife Daw Khaing May Kyu, Mandalay Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Maung and wife, Indian and Chinese consuls-general in Mandalay and party, members of Region level organizations, the secretary and members of MCDC, heads of division, staff, choral dancers, students and Mandalarians were present.

Mandalay Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Maung extended greetings, saying the Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival of the cultural city is 150 years old.

Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Maung and Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing formally opened the pandal.

The Region chief minister and wife, the commander and party poured water on those present at the ceremony. Choral dancers then performed dances.

Decorated floats headed by Myoma Silver Swan float passed thorough the pandal, performing dances and songs.

Film stars, songsters and artistes performed songs and dances at the pandal.

A total of 37 pandals were opened and 10 decorated floats will participate in decorated float contest.

Mandalay celebrated Maha Thingyan overwhelmingly.—*MNA*

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (12-4-2012)

Kawthoung	(1.30) inches
Cocogyun	(0.32) inch
Ye	(0.20) inch

Sky Net, Mandalay FM to broadcast live entertainment

MANDALAY, 12 April—Sky Net TV and Mandalay FM will broadcast live entertainment of Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal 1373 ME.

At the Mayor's Pandal, Myanmarpyi Thein Tan, Zaw Paing, Marizza, Ye Lay, Khin Maung Htoo, Than Myat Soe, Kyi Tha (Pwe Kyaik Khin), L Seng Xi, Chit Thu Wai, Yadana Mai, Nan Hsu Yati Soe, comedians and the mom group of film artistes will perform entertainment to the accompaniment of Metal Zone Band of Yangon.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

US aerobatic pilots show their fantastic skills in this collection of photos.

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Dortmund cool title talk, despite beating Bayern

PAGE 14

Shah Rukh Khan to play Dhyan Chand?

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In this file photo of an artist rendering released by Lucas Films, a drawing of the proposed Industry Light & Magic campus, is shown.

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