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Saturday, 14 April, 2012

True patriotism

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

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

President U Thein Sein receives British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron of the United Kingdom at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 12.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu and departmental heads.

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President U Thein Sein meets British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon joyfully participate in Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon enjoy choral dance at water throwing pandal of Hotel Golden Land.—MNA



Together with Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Htay Aung and Dr Win Myint, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and family members, the Vice-President and wife joyfully participated in the Maha Thingyan Festival.

At Sky Net family water throwing pandal in front of Shwe Ethel Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, the Vice-President and party were welcomed by Deputy Ministers U Soe Win, U Khin

(See page 9)

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon enjoyed the Nay Pyi

Taw Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME on Thingyan Akya day today. On arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha

Thingyan Pandal in front of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall at 3.20 pm, the Vice-President and wife were welcomed by Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of

Nay Pyi Taw Council Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt and wife by sprinkling scented water at them in line with the Myanmar traditions.

Next, the Vice-

President and wife enjoyed the Thingyan songs and dances presented by choral dancers of ministries, famous vocalists and artistes on the stage of the pandal.

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 14 April, 2012

More pious deeds than fun

Now we all are in festive mood again, as we are celebrating Myanmar New Year festival for six days this year. In the wards, little boys and little girls are splashing water over the people while adults are filling their tubs and giving protection to these kids. Revelers mostly teens go around town in search of water-throwing pavilions that are also entertaining the public with dances and songs.

Decorated floats roam cities and towns presenting dance and songs the whole day till night during the festival. There are also decorated float competitions and decorated water-throwing pavilion contests in big cities like Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and in many major towns. Film stars and pop idols also join in the festival entertaining the general public with songs and dances from the stages of water-throwing pavilions or on the decorated floats. People are happy to see their favorite artistes in person. On some stages, famous comedians crack clean jokes or sing antiphonal chants adding extra joy to the festival.

Some communities set up pavilions where volunteers serve food or snacks to every one free of charge. People young and old retreat to meditation centres where they practice vipassana which according to teachings of Buddha is the only way to Nirvana, while others enter religious order temporarily. So many men become monks and women nuns during the Thingyan holidays. Most of the elder people go to monasteries where they seek Dhamma from the venerable or learned monks, keep Sabbath and share Dhamma knowledge among themselves.

On the final day or the New Year Day of the festival people focus only one doing meritorious deeds. They release fish, birds and other animals, help senior citizens at their homes or at the homes for the aged, provide sanitation services at pagodas, visit monasteries or seek Dhamma from monks.

So every year we Buddhists celebrate Thingyan with more pious deeds than fun.

Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival crowded with revellers

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Mandalay Maha Thingyan Festival was packed with revellers today (on Maha Thingyan Akya Day) around Mandalay Moat.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe, guests and members of Mandalay Region government participated in the festival at Pandals of Myanmar Hoteliers Association, Central Command Headquarters Family, United Company Group, Irrigation Department and Alpine, and enjoyed songs and dances entertained by vocalists and actors and actresses.

Due to the precaution of by Mandalay Region Traffic Rule Enforcement Supervisory Committee, there was least traffic jam around Mandalay Moat than before. As Thingyan pandals are crowded with photographers and people who are taking photos for the photo contest of Information and Photo Contest Scrutinizing Committee.

In the evening, Thingyan floats are competing for Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal. The Mandalay Mayor, Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Maung and wife, guests, Secretary U San Maung, committee members, families enjoyed songs and dances at Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal.—MNA

Taunggyi Maha Thingyan opened



Opening of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival takes place in Taunggyi of Shan State.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut and officials

attended opening ceremonies of Taunggyi Maha Thingyan Festival and pandals yesterday.

Choral dancers

performed dances and the chief minister, the commander and guests poured water on those present at the ceremonies.

MNA

Mon State opens Maha Thingyan Festival



Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, the Region Hluttaw Speaker, the Commander of South-East Command and the State Minister for Planning and Economy open Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—The opening ceremony of Mon State Maha Thingyan Festival was held yesterday evening at central pandal of Mawlamyine.

State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, the State Hluttaw speaker, the Commander of South-East Command the State Planning and Economy minister formally opened the festival. The choral dancers performed dances and the chief minister and wife and party sprinkled scented water on those present.

The State chief minister and wife presented gifts to film stars and songsters who performed songs.

The State chief minister also attended the opening of the South-East Command Pandal.—MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister attends Maha Thingyan opening ceremony



Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win opens Bago Maha Thingyan Central Pandal.—MNA

Next, the Chief Minister, State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Thu, an official of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, Chairman of Leading Body of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone U Khun San Lwin and U Aung Naing of Homein Region Development and Welfare Committee formally opened the Thingyan pandal.

The Chief Minister and party visited pandals of Ministry of Home Affairs and Golden Dragon Spring.

At 5.15 pm, the Golden Sunflower Water Throwing Pandal was opened. The Chief Minister, the commander and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Sein Myint opened the pandal and enjoyed the water throwing festival.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win attended opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Festival at Central Pandal of Bago yesterday evening and formally opened the festival.

Choral dancers performed dances. The Chief Minister and wife also attended opening ceremonies of pandals in Bago.

The Region Chief Minister attended the concluding ceremony of 2594th Buddha Pujaniya of Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago and donated offertories to members of the Sangha.—MNA



Emergency personnel stand at the site of a collision between a regional train and a construction vehicle near Steinheim, close to Frankfurt, Germany, early on 13 April, 2012.—XINHUA

Three killed in train accident in Germany

BERLIN, 13 April—Three people were killed and 13 others were injured when a regional train collided with a works engine near the German town of Offenbach on Friday, the BBC reported.

A total of 35 passengers were onboard the train travelling from Frankfurt to Hanau when the train ran into a maintenance crane on the track.

The train driver and two members of a construction crew were killed, German media reported. Seven people were taken to hospital with severe injuries.

Xinhua



Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong (C) meets Northern Ireland's First Minister Peter Robinson (R) and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness in Belfast, Britain, on 12 April, 2012.—XINHUA

Chinese state councilor meets N Ireland leaders to boost cultural, educational cooperation

BELFAST, 13 April—Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong met Northern Ireland's First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness here Thursday to discuss cultural and educational cooperation.

Liu said Sino-British relations have maintained a sound development momentum over recent years with frequent high-level visits between the two countries, which helped to strengthen mutual political trust.

Trade and investment between the two countries have also increased against the backdrop of the financial crisis, while cooperation has been increasingly diversified, Liu said.

As China is undergoing the largest scale of industrialization and urbanization in history and adjusting its structure and methods to meet the goal of development in a scientific way, its market is maturing and expanding with more and more enterprises looking for overseas investment, the Chinese state councilor said. At the same time, she said the number of Chinese tourists and students to Britain has also increased.

Northern Ireland has a convenient geographic location, a strong industrial base and rich cultural heritage, she said, adding that relations between China and Northern Ireland are getting closer, and that there have been more grounds for common interests and more opportunities for cooperation.

Liu also said she would like to see Northern Ireland further promote itself in China and help more Chinese to learn more about the British region. She believed that deepening cultural and educational exchanges between China and Britain will promote the understanding and mutual trust between the two governments and peoples.

Upon welcoming Liu, Robinson said, "Our relationship with China has steadily enhanced over recent years, and this is bringing benefit for all our communities."

He said Liu was the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit Northern Ireland since the establishment of Sino-British diplomatic ties, adding that he believed "this will be the start of many visits between our governments, institutions and citizens," Robinson said.

"We are keen to develop our cultural, business and academic links with China, and we look forward to welcoming the Chinese Artistic Gymnastics Team for pre-Olympic training in Lisburn later this summer," McGuinness said.

Xinhua

Japan reactor restart debate swells beyond nuclear frontline

ORSU, 13 April—Japan's nuclear power industry had never spent much time or money winning over the hearts and minds of people like Susumu Takahashi, a fisherman angling for small sweetfish from the serene shores of Lake Biwa, a world away from any nuclear reactor.

But with the industry paralyzed after last year's Fukushima nuclear disaster, and badly in need of public trust to get moving again, it

may wish it had gone to the trouble.

"If Lake Biwa gets contaminated, then that would be irreversible," said Takahashi, a doctor who regularly casts his line into the mountain-ringed lake in western Shiga prefecture, which contains none of Japan's 54 nuclear reactors but sits next to Fukui prefecture which hosts 13 of them.

"The lake is in our hands now but it is also for future

generations, and contamination would be passed down for generations.—Reuters

Kansai Electric Power Co's Ohi nuclear power plant No 3 (R) and No4 reactors are seen in Ohi, Fukui prefecture, in this 26 January, 2012 file photo.—INTERNET



Two coast guard members shot dead at Alaska base

ANCHORAGE, 13 April—Two members of the Coast Guard were shot dead at a communications station on Alaska's Kodiak Island, prompting an investigation by the FBI and a lockdown of the base, officials said on Thursday. The Federal Bureau of Investigation said there was no immediate evidence of terrorism or sabotage, but a security alert was in force at the installation because the circumstances surrounding the deaths were unclear.

FBI and Coast Guard officials declined to say whether investigators believed they were dealing with a double homicide or a murder-suicide. The deaths marked the first fatal shootings at a Coast Guard facility in Alaska in over a decade. "Since we don't have all the details, we strongly advise that all Kodiak residents remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement officials," Captain Jesse Moore, base commanding officer, said in a statement soon after the slayings were first reported.

"We are deeply saddened that we lost two shipmates.—Reuters

Shell says Gulf of Mexico sheen dissipating

HOUSTON, 13 April—Royal Dutch Shell said an oil sheen near two of its offshore Gulf of Mexico oil and natural gas platforms was dissipating Thursday, and it was "very confident" its installations were not to blame. The Hague-based company said the "orphan spill," estimated to be about six barrels of oil, was breaking up. Shell said it would continue

to monitor the sea floor with a pair of underwater robots.

"Shell's subsea surveillance today and tomorrow will continue to determine if there is a connection between natural seeps and this orphan sheen," the company said. News of the sheen, first reported to US regulators on Wednesday, came nearly two years after BP Plc's deep sea Macondo well blew out on 20 April, 2010, killing 11 workers and spewing more than 4 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The earlier drop in the company's London-listed share price showed that investors remain anxious over potential oil accidents two years after the BP offshore spill, the worst ever in the United States.

Shares of Shell traded on the New York Stock Exchange closed up 11 cents on Thursday at \$67.86. The stock closed down less than 1 percent in London after falling as much as 5 percent earlier in the day, temporarily erasing roughly \$12 billion in value from Europe's largest oil company by market capitalization.—Reuters



An old Shell logo is seen on a vintage fuel wagon at a museum railway station in the town of Naumburg in northern Hesse on 17 March, 2012.—INTERNET

Indonesia quake a record, risks for Aceh grow

SINGAPORE, 13 April — The powerful undersea earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra this week was once in 2,000 years event, and although it resulted in only a few deaths, it increases the risks of a killer quake in the region, a leading seismologist said. Wednesday's 8.6 magnitude quake and a powerful aftershock were "strike-slip" quakes and the largest of that type recorded, Kerry Sieh, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore, told Reuters. "It's a really an exceptionally large and rare event," he said.

"Besides it being the biggest strike-slip earthquake

ever recorded, the aftershock is the second biggest as far as we can tell," said Sieh, who has studied the seismically active, and deadly, fault zones around Sumatra for years. Strike-slip quakes involve the horizontal movement of colliding earth plates, and are typically less powerful than those where there is vertical movement. They are also less likely to trigger big tsunamis, or tidal waves. A magnitude 9.1 quake in roughly the same region on Boxing Day in 2004 decimated Aceh province on Sumatra and killed over 230,000 people in 13 countries around the Indian Ocean.

Sumatra, the western-

most island in the sprawling Indonesian archipelago, has a history of powerful quakes and tsunamis, most triggered by an offshore zone along its entire length, where the Indian-Australian tectonic plate is forced under the Eurasian plate. This creates a deep ocean trench as one plate slides under the other at a rate of several centimeters a year. In this zone, called the Sunda megathrust, stress builds up when the subducting Indian-Australian plate bends the Eurasian plate like a spring board as it moves down into the Earth's crust.

Eventually enough stress builds up that the edge of

Eurasian plate suddenly jolts upward, triggering an earthquake.

Reuters

Patients are evacuated from a hospital after an earthquake hit the western coast of Sumatra, in Banda Aceh in Aceh Province on 11 April, 2012.—INTERNET



Contact lost with flagship Envisat spacecraft



The last data transmitted from Envisat was a radar image of Spain's Canary Islands.—INTERNET

PARIS, 13 April—Contact has been lost with the European Space Agency's (ESA) flagship Earth observation mission — *Envisat*. Controllers stopped receiving data from the eight-tonne spacecraft on Sunday, and have not as yet been able to re-establish communications. *Envisat* was launched in 2002 and is already operating five years beyond its planned

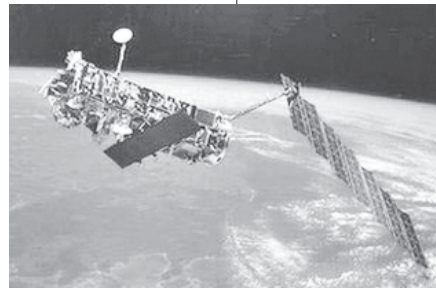
mission lifetime. ESA was expecting to turn off the spacecraft in 2014, once the first in a series of follow-ons had been launched.

A recovery team, which includes experts from industry, is now working to try to re-establish contact with the platform. It is not uncommon for communications with a satellite to be lost from time to time, and controllers will be encouraged that the spacecraft appears to be in a stable condition as it moves around the globe from pole to pole. *Envisat* has been at the forefront of European Earth observation endeavours for a decade.

It carries 10 sophisticated instruments to monitor the

land, the oceans, Earth's ice cover and its atmosphere.

The mission is due to be



replaced by the Sentinel series of satellites.

The first of these — Sentinel 1 — is supposed to take over the radar duties of *Envisat* when it is launched

At 2b euros, *Envisat* represented in 2002 the single most valuable launch in European space history.—INTERNET

next year. Scientists had hoped to have the pair operating in orbit together for a period of time so they could cross-calibrate their data.

Internet

Bird-like dinosaur found with eggs in Patagonia



LONDON, 13 April — The bones and eggs of a new 70-million-year-old dinosaur that resembled a flightless bird have been found in Patagonia, scientists say. Palaeontologists

said they expected the eggs, which were fertilised and well-developed, to help explain how birds evolved from dinosaurs. Some of the eggs were probably still inside the mother dinosaur when she died — other eggs were nearby.

The new species, *Bonapartenykus ultimus*, is a member of the small, long-legged, fast-moving Alvarezsaurid dinosaur family, they report in *Cretaceous Research*. Although the link to modern-day birds has been disputed in the past, palaeontologist Fernando Novas said the current batch of bones resembled the skeleton of the Nandu, a modern flightless bird of the Rhea genus, native to Patagonia.—Internet

Satellite mapping pinpoints penguin population

SYDNEY, 13 April — Counting emperor penguins in their icy Antarctic habitat was not easy until researchers used new technology to map the birds from space, and they received a pleasant penguin surprise for their efforts. Using satellite mapping with resolution high enough to distinguish ice shadows from penguin poo, an international team has carried out what they say is an unprecedented penguin census from the heavens over the past three years. The good news was that the team found the Antarctic emperor penguin population numbered about 595,000, nearly double previous estimates.

But the bad news was that some colonies have disappeared altogether due to changing weather patterns and the long-term future of the birds is far from assured. "Yes, this is the first comprehensive census of a species taken from space, absolutely," said Barbara Wienecke, a sea bird ecologist with the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) who spoke with Reuters by phone from the Aurora Australis research vessel. Previous counts have been inaccurate due to rough terrain that made some colonies inaccessible and frigid temperatures that can plummet to -50 degrees Celsius (-58 Fahrenheit).

Reuters



Emperor penguins are seen in Dumont d'Urville, Antarctica on 10 April, 2012.—INTERNET

Microsoft wins its biggest cloud computing client

LONDON, 13 April — Microsoft announced its biggest-ever customer for cloud computing—software that it hosts on behalf of clients and delivers over the Internet — after winning a contract to provide free services to a major Indian education body.

Microsoft, which was built on the sale of expensive software that is installed on individual computers, has been forced by competition from Google and others to branch out into the fast-growing world of cloud computing. The US software giant said on Thursday it would provide its Live@edu

and collaboration software to more than 7 million students and half a million teachers through a deal with the All India Council for Technical Education.

The service, which Microsoft is providing for free as part of its education initiative, includes email, Office Web applications, instant messaging and storage. For users, cloud computing is inexpensive and simple, because it removes the need to spend time and money on installing software and managing servers. Large government departments are prime targets for vendors such



A visitor uses his mobile phone as he walks past the Microsoft booth with a logo for cloud computing software application at the CeBit computer fair in Hanover, on 6 March, 2012.—INTERNET

as Microsoft and Google. Last June, Microsoft unveiled a revamped online version of its hugely profitable Office software suite.—Reuters

Google stock split helps Page, Brin maintain grip

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 April — Google Inc announced a stock split designed to preserve the control of co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin over the world's No 1 Web search engine, asking investors to trust their long-term vision. The surprise decision, which its board unanimously approved, came as the company exceeded Wall Street's profit expectations but revealed a worrying 12 percent drop in search advertising rates — the second consecutive quarterly decline. Shares of Google, which finished Thursday's regular session at \$651.01, rose to \$653 in after-hours trading.

The announcement came just as Page completed a year in the chief executive's seat for the second time, during which he spearheaded the \$12.5 billion acquisition of Motorola Mobility and launched a social network to take on Facebook. "This stock split dividend, a dividend of a non-voting

shares, is really just so the company can maintain control," BGC analyst Colin Gillis said. "Plus, you have another quarter with a disturbing drop in click prices. OK, paid clicks are up but people are paying less for them. We had smartphones before the December quarter. If we want to blame it all on smartphones, that's a little disconcerting."



People visit Google's stand at the National Retail Federation Annual Convention and Expo in New York on 16 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Google said its board of directors has approved a 2-for-1 stock split. Investors will get a dividend of one share of the new, non-voting "Class C" stock for each existing Google share. The new shares, to be listed on Nasdaq under a separate ticker, will be available for corporate uses such as equity-based compensation for employees, in which case they would not dilute the share base. "When we went public, we created a dual-class voting structure," Page said in a letter explaining the moves. "Our goal was to maintain the freedom to focus on the long term by ensuring that the management team, in particular Eric, Sergey and I, retained control over Google's destiny," the letter said.

Reuters

EU investigates Internet's spread to more devices

BRUSSELS, 13 April — The European Commission is extending a probe into the spread of the Internet. The regulator says it expects an explosion in the number of household appliances and other devices connected to the net before 2020. It is launching a consultation over controls of the way information is gathered, stored and processed, saying it wants to "ensure the rights of individuals are respected".

The public is being invited to send in its views before a 12 July deadline. The commission says that the average person living within the 27-nation bloc has at least two devices connected to the net at present — typically a computer and smartphone. It expects the figure to rise to seven by 2015, with a total of 25 billion wirelessly connected to the net worldwide. By the end of the decade it says that could climb to 50 billion.

"If a university teacher cancels a morning lecture because they are sick, students' alarm clocks and coffee machines could automatically be reset," it gives as an example. "If an elderly person forgets to take an essential pill, a warning message could be sent to a close family member." "People need to know and trust that this sort of change is one they are comfortable with, and it's important to have that conversation now," a spokesman told the BBC.—Internet



The spread of the net could let alarm clocks change their settings if an appointment is cancelled.—INTERNET



More unmarried couples having babies

WASHINGTON, 13 April—More unmarried women who live with their partners are having babies than ever before, a new government report shows. Twenty-seven percent of births between 2003 and 2010 were to such couples — a threefold increase from 1985, researchers from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention found. “It’s thought that in births outside of marriage, one parent isn’t present. But our data is showing that a large proportion do have two parents, even though [they’re] not formally married,” said report author Gladys Martinez, a demographer in the CDC’s Division of Vital Statistics.

In addition, not only are many older women giving birth, but many also are having more than one child, she said. “We know that women have been delaying childbirth,” Martinez said.

“But there is also an increase in the number of older women who have more than one kid, and we would expect that to be even higher if we interviewed even older women,” Martinez noted that women who delay having children tend to be better educated. Nearly 60 percent of

women who did not complete high school had their first child as a teenager, compared with only 4 percent of women with a college degree. The data in the report was gathered from more than 22,000 interviews done between 2006 and 2010 with men and women aged 15 to 44. The data was compared with similar data from 2002, according to the CDC. “It’s surprising that so many unmarried couples are having children,” said Dr Christine Mullin, a reproductive endocrinologist and infertility specialist at the Centre for Human Re-production at North Shore-LIJ Health System in Manhasset, NY.

Mullin also noted that, for older women, having one child

is hard enough. Women who delay giving birth usually do so for education and career reasons, she added.

Other highlights of the report include:

*Forty-three percent of women aged 15 to 44 had never had a baby.

*Among men aged 15 to 44, 45 percent had fathered a child.

*The average age at which women had their first child was 23; for men it was 25.

*Almost 40 percent of women whose first birth occurred between the ages of 35 and 44 had at least two children; it was 26 percent in 1995.

*Women between the ages of 40 and 44 had an average of 2.1 children. — *Internet*



In China, life expectancy should reach 74.5 years by 2015, Chinese Health Minister Chen Zhu, said on Thursday. — *Internet*

China economic growth dips to 8.1% in the first quarter

LONDON, 13 April — China’s economy, the world’s second-largest, has expanded at its slowest pace in almost three years. Gross domestic product increased by an annual rate of 8.1% in the first quarter, down from 8.9% in the previous three months.

That is less than many analysts had forecast with most of them expecting a figure closer to 8.3%. China has been hit by a drop in demand in key markets including the US and Europe. At the same time domestic demand has proved tough to stimulate. “We are slightly disappointed.

The main downside was with exports and some terms of consumption,” said Kevin Lai of Daiwa Capital Markets.

On Thursday, the World Bank warned that China’s

economy may slow further in the coming months. “China’s gradual slowdown is expected to continue into 2012, as consumption growth slows somewhat, investment growth decelerates more pronouncedly and external demand remains weak,” said Ardo Hansson, the World Bank’s lead economist for China.

The bank cut its growth outlook for the Chinese economy for 2012 to 8.2% from its earlier projection of 8.4%. It cautioned that a slowdown in Beijing’s key export markets and “the ongoing correction in China’s property markets” were key risks to growth in the future.

The rise in property and consumer prices in the country has been the focus of China’s policymakers over

the past few months. The central bank has taken various measures to curb lending in an attempt to control consumer price growth and keep property prices in check. The measures appear to be having the desired effect.

The rate of inflation, which hit a three-year high of 6.5% in July last year, has since slowed down. Consumer prices in March rose by 3.6% from a year earlier, lower than the government’s target of 4% for the year.

At the same time, property prices have fallen for a five consecutive months, easing concerns about the formation of asset bubbles. However, analysts said that while the government’s policies had yielded positive results, authorities needed to ensure that they maintained a



German MPs call for under-18 ban on cosmetic surgery

BERLIN, 13 April—Plastic surgery could be outlawed for under 18-year-olds unless medically necessary under a proposal by lawmakers from Germany’s ruling party, according to a document seen by AFP on Thursday. The politicians argue that going under the knife for breast enlargement or nose operations should be off the cards for minors, a draft position paper states.



“Even with a proper explanation, it is not guaranteed that the young person is aware of the full implication of the decision” to undergo plastic surgery, the lawmakers argue in their paper.

Behind the bid are officials dealing with health matters from Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union. They want the proposed ban, revealed earlier by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, to be wrapped into new patient-protection legislation.

It is due for discussion at a Friday gathering of party leaders.

*A general view of a session of the Bundestag lower house of parliament in Berlin in 2011. Plastic surgery could be outlawed for under 18-year-olds unless medically necessary under a proposal by lawmakers from Germany’s ruling party, according to a document seen by AFP on Thursday. — *Internet**

The move was generally welcomed by medical associations.

“We support a ban on cosmetic surgery on children and young people,” vice president of the German Medical Association, Martina Wenker, told AFP. The German Society of Plastic, Re-constructive and Aesthetic Surgery (DGPRAC) also basically gave the move the thumbs up but warned of the need for certain caveats.

“With a sweeping ban there’s the danger that patients for whom interventions are necessary for psychological reasons slip through the net,” a spokeswoman said.

Internet

Mortgage rates hit new record lows

WASHINGTON, 13 April—The average rate for a 15-year fixed-rate mortgage hit a record low of 3.88 percent for the week ending on 12 April, according to Freddie Mac. The rate fell .10 percent from the previous week and is .01 percent below the previous 30-year mortgage rate of 3.87 record set in February. The average rate for 15-year mortgages fell to a record low 3.11 percent.

“Fixed mortgage rates eased for the third consecutive

week following long-term Treasury bond yields lower after a weaker than expected employment report for March,” Frank Nothaft, vice president and chief economist at Freddie Mac, said in a statement.

“Although the unemployment rate fell to the lowest reading since January 2009, the overall economy added just 120,000 new jobs in March, nearly half that of the market consensus forecast,” said Nothaft. “On a more positive note, the Federal Reserve reported hiring was steady, or showed a modest increase, across many of its Districts in its 11th April Beige Book of regional economic conditions.” For the week ending 6 April, the Mortgage Bankers Association saw a 2.4 percent drop in mortgage applications from the previous week. But, there has been some bright spots in the real estate market. “The mild winter has helped lift expectations for the housing market after four years of sluggish sales,” according to the *Associated Press*. “January and February made up the best winter for re-sales in five years, when the housing crisis began. And builders in February requested the most permits to construct homes in more than three years,” according to the AP.

Internet

Kraft discontinues Athenos Greek yogurt

NEW YORK, 13 April — Kraft Foods Inc is discontinuing its Athenos line of Greek yogurt, the company said on Thursday, exiting the fast-growing US Greek yogurt market. Athenos, which also makes feta cheese, hummus and pita chips, discontinued the yogurt in March. “Although we had a loyal following of Athenos Greek yogurt fans, we have decided to refocus our efforts on innovating new products for the Athenos brand,” a Kraft spokesman said in a statement. “We know that this is very disappointing to consumers, and it was an extremely difficult

decision for us to make.”

Sales of Greek yogurt, which is thicker and has more protein than other yogurt, have soared in the United States in the last few years. The market is dominated by privately held Agro Fama, whose Chobani brand has about a 60 percent share. Danone is second with 17 percent, followed by Greece-based Fage, and Yoplait owner General Mills. Kraft Foods is preparing to split into two companies — one focused on snack brands like Cadbury, Oreo and Ritz and one focused on grocery brands like Oscar Mayer, Maxwell House and Planters. — *Reuters*



Export and manufacturing sectors have been one of the biggest drivers of China’s economic growth — *Internet*



News photos depicting celebrations of Myanmar people far and wide the country on Maha Thingyan Akyā Day



Kandawgyi Lake ringroad teeming with revellers on Maha Thingyan Akyā Day.
TIN SOE



Revellers play water in No. 16 Street in Latha Township of Maha Thingyan Akyā Day.
TIN SOE

Yangon Mayor's Pandal packed with merry-makers on Thingyan Akyā Day.
TIN SOE



Damsels of DaikU perform choral dances at pandal in Merchant Street of DaikU on Thingyan Akyā Day.
PEINZALOK-THEIN NYUNT



Celebrations of local people in Kalay at entertainment pandal on Thingyan Day.
KALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE

Tens of thousands of revellers along Pyay Road in Yangon on Thingyan Akyā Day.
TIN SOE



Shwe Than Lwin Pandal crowded with revellers on Thingyan Akyā Day.—MNA



Nyaunglebin Township Pandal packed with revellers on Thingyan Akyā Day.
PEINZALOK-THEIN NYUNT



The Thingyan Days I Would Always Remember

Hpone Thant

My most memorable Thingyan days were when our family was still young. We had only two children then, a boy and a girl. The 3rd son was not yet born. Inside our compound in Yangon there is a well and when Thingyan comes around it became the rendezvous for both my 2 children and their friends (two girls) who lived opposite our house.



Every morning during Thingyan the children trooped out with buckets and water guns ready to splash everyone passing by with Thingyan water. Our duty was to regularly refill the huge tub with water drawn from the well and keep an eye on them too. We had no electric motor to pump up the water from the well, just the old fashioned pulley system hanging on the crossbar above the well. My son would be armed with a water gun but the three girls would have small buckets in their hands. The children were so happy, splashing everyone in sight with Thingyan water.

Sometimes an overloaded Jeep or a small utility truck with revellers would detour into our small street to pick up someone. It was a great opportunity for the children to really engage in water fights: the revellers on the Jeep would taunt them or shout encouragement as they drive past. They might even throw back water from the huge drum they carried on their

vehicle. Then the children would be extra happy to get back the response.

But this happens occasionally only. Most of the time the children wait for someone coming back from the bazaar, or someone they knew from the street to venture out or the milkman on his daily rounds. But if they see a gang of more aggressive children, armed with more water

guns and assortment of armaments, advancing in the distance they would quickly steal inside the gates and hide behind the parents to emerge later after this gang had passed.

But one permanent victim of their assault was a young teenage boy, a little bit eccentric, who lived at the top of our street. He loves the children very much and the children are also not afraid of him, treating him as their very good friend. If there is nobody coming for the children to douse with water, he would volunteer. He would take off his shirt and parade up and down in front of the children and give them a chance to splash water on him. He would also make fun by sometimes soaping himself and letting the children pour water onto his head.

In the evening time there would be entertainment too. A visit to the prize awarding pandal situated near our house by the Kandawgyi Lake in the evening would also make the children happy. At



the pandal there would be dancing and singing. Sometimes a competing troupe on a gaily decorated float will be there. They would stage dancing and singing and thangyat (a form of satirical verses) and short plays. Heaving the children onto our shoulders so that they can see too we enjoyed these entertainments.

But the children are so tired by that time. And as we walked back home they

would become grouchy, grumpy and sleepy and we had to carry them home in our arms the whole way back.

And those were the Thingyan Days I always remember. Now the children are all grown-ups and we have become grandparents ourselves. But in our eyes they are still small children and tears well up in my eyes whenever I remember the Thingyan that was nearly 30 years ago.



Maha Thingyan water throwing pandal opened

YANGON, 13 April—Maha Thingyan water throwing pandal of Yangon West District General Administration Department of Yangon Region was opened in front of Queen Star Restaurant at the corner of Strand Road and Ahlon Road in Ahlon Township yesterday.

Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu Zaw of Yangon West District General Administration Department made an opening speech.

Yangon Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo, Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin and the Deputy Commissioner cut the ribbon to open the pandal.

Later, the Thingyan damsels sang the opening songs.—*Myanma Alin*



Maha Thingyan Festival opened in Dalla

YANGON, 13 April—The opening ceremony of Yangon South District's Dalla Township Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME was held at the entertainment pandal at Dalla Jetty on 12 April evening. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Tun Tun Win, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Kyaw Win, Township Education Officer U Than Soe and Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Tin Oo formally opened water throwing the pandal.

After that, a total of 14 choral dancing troupes performed dancing enter-tainment with the opening song "Mantaung-yeikkho".—*Than Htay (Dalla)*

Students rehearse entertainment at Mdy Mayor's Pandal

MANDALAY, 13 April—Students of basic education schools form Yein troupes rehearsed opening entertainments of Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME in front of Mandalay City Development Committee Office on 10 April evening.

Under the supervision of Staff Officer Daw Nyo Nyo Win of Fine Arts Department (Mandalay) and officials of MCDC, the choral dancer troupe members participated in the rehearsal to the accompaniment of MCDC orchestra and modern music band.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



School girls participate in rehearsal dancing for opening of Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal in front of Mandalay City Development Committee.

DISTRICT NEWS

**President
of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
U Thein Sein and
party together with
British Prime
Minister Rt. Hon.
Mr. David Cameron
and delegation
members pose for
documentary photo.**

MNA



President U Thein Sein...

(from page 1)

The British Prime Minister and party were accompanied by Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Andrew Richard Heyn.

At the call, they held discussions on promotion of friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries, and tasks for sector-wise cooperation in progress of internal

politics and peace process and development of socio economy in a cordial manner.

After that, President U Thein Sein hosted a special luncheon in honour of the British delegation led by British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron.—MNA

British Prime Minister Rt. Hon.

Mr. David Cameron arrives Yangon

YANGON, 13 April—British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron and party left Nay Pyi Taw by a special flight this evening and arrived at Yangon at 4 pm.

He was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister U Hla Myint, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and responsible personnel of the British Embassy in Yangon.

The British Prime Minister met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National League for Democracy at her home on University Avenue in Kamayut Township and made a press conference.

Afterwards, the British Prime Minister and party visited War Cemetery in Sangyoung Township and laid a wreath. They visited Shwedagon Pagoda at 10 pm and left Yangon by the special flight.

MNA



British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron being welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Kachin State Maha Thingyan Festival opened



Opening of Kachin State Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai announced the opening of Maha Thingyan Festival of Kachin State at Central Pandal in Myitkyina yesterday evening. Members of region level organizations formally opened the festival.

The Chief Minister and wife sprinkled scented water on choral dancers and those present at the ceremony which was also attended by members of region level organizations, Hluttaw representatives, departmental personnel and local people.

MNA

Sagaing Region's Thingyan Festival opened

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—The opening ceremony of 1373 ME Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival of Sagaing Region was held in front of City Hall of Monywa yesterday evening, attended by Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Thin Hlaing,

Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Thauang Sein, members of Region level organizations, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, choral dancers, decorated floats and local people.

Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein read out New Year message of the

organizing committee and the chief minister formally opened the festival.

Choral dancers performed dances and the chief minister and party poured scented water on those present.

Eleven decorated floats performed entertainments alternatively.—MNA

Rakhine State Maha Thingyan Fragrance Grinding Contest and Central Pandal opened

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and wife Daw Nu Nu Zan and officials attended 1373 ME Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Fragrance Grinding

Contest yesterday morning.

The Chief Minister, State Social Affairs Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, State Electricity and Industry Minister U Tha Lu Che formally opened the contest.

The Chief Minister, State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tha Nyunt and the State Social Affairs Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min formally opened the pandal where choral dancers staged dances.—MNA



Thingyan choral dancers seen at Max Myanmar Group of Companies family water throwing pandal on Thingyan Akya Day.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham,...

(from page 1)

Zaw, U Tint Lwin and U Aung Than Oo, Chairman of Shwe Thanlwin Co U Kyaw Win and party.

After enjoying entertainments of film artistes and vocalists at the water throwing pandal, the Vice-President cordially greeted the artistes.

He then joyfully participated in the water throwing festival after awarding the artistes and vocalists.

At the pandal of Max Myanmar Group of Companies, the Vice-President and party enjoyed the entertainment of choral dancers.

After presenting cash awards to the dancers, they enjoyed the water throwing festival.

They also visited the water throwing pandal of ACE Group of Companies and presented cash awards to the artistes and vocalists. Then, they participated in the festival.

At Hotel Shwe Pyi Taw's pandal, they watched entertainments and presented cash awards to them. Afterwards, the Vice-President and wife happily partook in the water festival.

In the Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME, artistes Academy Nay Aung, Academy Ye Aung, Academy Zin Waing, Academy Min Maw Kun, Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Academy May Than Nu and Pa Pa Win Khin in addition to vocalists L Lun Wah, Naw Naw, Thar Soe and Lein Maw Thee presented entertainments and songs to the audiences.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents cash award to dancers of Max Myanmar Group of Companies' water throwing pandal. MNA

Magway Region Chief Minister attends Maha Thingyan Festival



Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe formally opens Thingyan Water Festival in Magway.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—The opening ceremony of the year of 1373 ME Maha Thingyan Festival of Magway Region was held at central pandal on Strand Road of Magway at 6 pm yesterday, attended by Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and his wife Daw San San Myint, the region ministers, members of region level organization, Magway district and township departmental personnel, choral troupes, decorated floats and Thingyan lovers.

At the ceremony, the region chief minister extended greetings saying that happy thingyan for all and everyone may full of enjoyment in this occasion and formally opened the ceremony.

Next the competitive choral troupes were sprinkled scented water with Eugenia branches. And then Yein troupes and decorated floats entertained the Thingyan goers with the songs—Nyomya and Shwemammarlar.

MNA

Thingyan enthusiasts enjoy Thingyan festival on Maha Thingyan Akya Day

YANGON, 13 April—Yesterday Maha Thingyan Akya Day, Thingyan pandals all in the four districts in Yangon Region including Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal were respectively opened. Thingyan enthusiasts partook in the water festival today Maha Thingyan Akya Day as well.

Yein troupes and Alinka Wutyi Myanmar orchestral music show-band entertained Thingyan enthusiasts with their performances at Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal today.

There were streams of Thingyan revelers plus foreigners happily partaking in the festival at Thingyan pandals in Yangon Region.

Also offering free snacks were respectively made everywhere, which is a Myanmar lovely custom.

Yangon Region Minister for Road Transport U Aung Khin and party paid a close attention to process of offering free snacks taken place at No. 9 Ward in Kamayut Township this morning.

While some are being among the partakers in Thingyan festival, some are welcoming Myanmar New Year keeping Sabbath and making good deeds such as offering free snacks and releasing animals etc.—MNA

Sagaing Region Chief Minister oversees regional development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye inspected construction of communication tower of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, site chosen for construction of 100-bed People's Hospital and progress in construction of Myothit road in Khamti on 10 April morning.

He met township level departmental personnel and townsenders at meeting hall of township Administrator's Office where he heard reports submitted by Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw and Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Than of Khamti

District General Administration Department. Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Hla Tun also reported on requirements for regional development.

After that, Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye made coordination upon the reports.

He also inspected condition of retaining wall of the Chindwin river, works for smooth water flow of the river and Border Areas and National Races Youths Development School in Khamti and construction of Sasana Beikman in Maha Sigongyi Pagoda in Sagaing. MNA

Ayeyawady Region Maha Thingyan Central Pandal opened



A ceremony to open Maha Thingyan Festival in Ayeyawady Region in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—The opening ceremony of Maha Thingyan Central Pandal was held in Patheingyi yesterday evening.

Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, members of region level organizations and officials attended the opening

ceremony. The Region Chief Minister formally opened the Central Pandal.

Choral dance troupes performed dances and the Region Chief Minister and party poured water on those present at the ceremony.—MNA

Safety for danger of fire, electricity checked in Okkan

YANGON, 13 April—Safety for danger of fire and electricity was undertaken at schools, markets and wards in Okkan of Taikkyi Township in Yangon Region on 5 April.

The administrator of Anawrahta Ward and party, the commander of Okkan Police Station and policemen, members of Fire Brigade, technicians of Township Electrical Engineer's Office and

Township Development Affairs Committee inspected electric meter boxes, wiring systems, swifts and control board, sanitation of garbage bins, and safety use of electricity at the shops at Okkan Myoma Market of Taikkyi Township.

They then checked the sales of fuel and lubricants. Later, they participated in the demonstration on fire drill.

Township Fire Brigade



CSC ISSUED: Director of Yangon Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Ye Tun Oo and party supervised issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to the people at Koenawin Dhammayon of Ward 1 in Shwepyitha Township on 24 March. Staff Officer of Township INRD and staff issue the cards to eligible citizens.

MYANMA ALIN

Strong winds destroy houses, buildings in Myogyi of Ywangan Township

YWANGAN, 13 April—The strong winds broke nine-Elbow Taungpulu Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in the compound of Myogyitaung Monastery in Myogyi Village of Ywangan Township in Shan State.

In the event, the umbrella of the pagoda fell down to the ground. About 60 corrugated iron sheets were blown in the winds and some structure destroyed at Myogyi Basic Education High School. A public rest house in the compound of the monastery collapsed in the strong

winds. Some houses of the local people were destroyed in the hit of strong winds. Transportation cut a short period on Myogyi-Hanmyintmo Road due to fallen trees on it.

A total of 66 households suffered from strong winds in Myogyi Village, and they lost property worth K 4.5 million. The local authorities provided necessary assistance to the strong winds victims. There was no casualty of human and animal in the accident, it was learnt.—Kyemon

CITIZENSHIP CARDS ISSUED: In implementing Moe Pwint-2 Plan by issuing citizenship scrutiny cards, Head of Rakhine State Immigration and National Registration Department U Kyaw Yin Oo presents citizenship scrutiny cards to a local people of Lintha Village-tract in Thandwe Township on 30 March.

IMMIGRATION



DISTRICT NEWS

MCDC not allows shops of vendors on roads in Thingyan Festival

MANDALAY, 13 April—During the period of Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival, Mandalay City Development Committee will not allow sales of vendors along the roads namely 66th street from 12th to 26th streets, 26th street between 66th and 80th streets, 80th street between 12 to 26 streets, 12th street between 66th and 80th streets.

Those who do not abide by the prescribed disciplines will be punished with K 30,000 fine. Mandalay City Development Committee urges all the people to help it keep Mandalay City clean and pleasant during the period of Maha Thingyan Festival.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Aleinma Library opened in Gangaw

GANGAW, 13 April—In the precinct of ShwepyiseikU Pagoda in Gangaw, Aleinma Library worth K 3.5 million built by U Kyaw Tin-Daw Htay Htay Mu of Gangaw Myoma Ward on 28 March.

Deputy Commissioner

RURAL HEALTH FACILITY OPENED: A ceremony to open self-reliant rural health branch built at a cost of K 9 million by local people was held at the branch in Nawngpanpein Village in Panglong of Loilem District on 19 March. Township Administrator U Thant Zin, medical in-charge Dr Sai Soe Hein and Pa-O national race U Pyinnya Hsan open the branch.—HEALTH



Alinyaung Library opened in Mingaladon Township

YANGON, 13 April—Alinyaung Library was opened in Htaukkyant Junction Ward in Mingaladon Township of Yangon North District on 25

March morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Nyein Htwe, Ward Administrator U Min Sein and Library Committee

Secretary U Kyi Win cut the ribbon to open the library.

The Township Administrator made a speech. Next, Patron of the library U Tun Myint discussed future tasks for durability of the library.

Myanma Alin

Insein Township WJA donates books to Kyaikto, Mawlamyine Township WJAs

YANGON, 13 April—An excursion group comprising 160 members led by Vice-Chairman of Insein Township Writers and Journalists Association U Bo Kyi (Dr Bo Thanmani-Taungdwingyi) donated books to Kyaikto Township

Information and Public Relations Department at Kinpun Sakhan Dhammayon in Kyaikto Township on 25 March.

They offered 3600 oil lights and gold foils to Kyaikthiyo Pagoda after paying homage to the

pagoda in the evening. They then presented commemorative pennants to Kyaikto Township WJA.

On 26 March, they arrived at Kyaikthanlan Pagoda in Mawlamyine Township. At the Dhammayon, they donated books to Mawlamyine Township IPRD and commemorative pennants to Mawlamyine Township WJA. In the evening, they lit 2700 oil lights at Kyaikthanlan Pagoda and offered gold foils to the pagoda.

On 27 April, they visited Kyaikkhami Yayle Pagoda. In the evening, they offered oil lights and gold foils to the pagoda.

Township WJA

Tomb of Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo maintained

MANDALAY, 13 April—The tombs of Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo and his relatives of King Mindon Period, located at 135 between 87th and 18th streets and 88th and 87th streets in Aungmyethazan Ward of Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay are in damage.

Archaeology, National

Museum and Library Department (Mandalay Branch) of the Ministry of Culture cleared bushes at the grave yard and is carrying out sanitation for maintenance of the tombs as of 21 March.

The tombs of the mayor and his relatives are located on 25 feet wide plot, said an older person of 80 years old.

A tomb of his son U Khin Maung

Dwe is located west of Shwehlanbo and another tomb without stone inscription, north of Shwehlanbo.

The stone inscription

bearing Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo who was born on 1205 ME, aged 70, passed away on 10th Waxing of Tabauing, 1274 ME

was put on the tomb of Shwehlanbo. Likewise, a stone inscription was put on the tomb of his son U Khin Maung Dwe.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Photo shows tomb of Mayor of Kawlin Maha Minkhaung Anawrahta Shwehlanbo at 135 between 87th and 18th streets and 88th and 87th streets in Aungmyethazan Township.



People look at products in the Sony store on 10 April, 2012 in New York City. Sony on Thursday said it would cut about 10,000 jobs in the fiscal year ending in March 2013 as the struggling electronics and entertainment giant moves to stem massive losses.—INTERNET

7.1-magnitude quake hits Gulf of California

BEIJING, 13 April — An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale jolted Gulf of California at 07:15:51 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey, monitored here, said. The epicentre, with a depth of 33.00 km, was initially determined to be at 28.7710 degrees north latitude and 113.0100 degrees west longitude.

Xinhua

Police probe hacking of anti-terror hotline

LONDON, 13 April — British police said their communications remained secure on Thursday after hackers linked to the anti-establishment group Anonymous blocked an anti-terrorism hotline and illegally recorded a security unit's officers discussing their actions. An activist group called Team Poison jammed the hotline with repeated calls - so-called "phone bombing" - preventing those with genuine concerns from getting through in the latest

attack on a high-profile institution.

Recordings of the hoax calls to the hotline, which is manned by specially trained police, and of other officers apparently from London police's Counter Terrorism Command (CTC) discussing the attack have been put on the YouTube website. London's Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) said it had conducted an investigation and was confident its internal communication system had

not been penetrated. "We have throughout the day researched the allegation that the Anti-Terrorist Hotline had been 'hacked' and activists' claims that they were able to listen unrestricted to confidential communications," said Ailsa Beaton, director of information for the London police force.

"We are confident the MPS communications systems have not been breached and remain, as they always have been, secure.

Reuters



Models present cars of Das Auto during the second Guiyang international automobile exhibition in Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 12 April, 2012. More than 70 automobile brands from home and abroad displayed their products in the exhibition area of about 80,000 square metres.—XINHUA

Iran offers Asia oil buyers easier credit terms

SINGAPORE, 13 April — Iran is offering Asian oil buyers, including India, easier credit terms to lure more business and counteract tough Western sanctions aimed at restricting the OPEC member's principal export, the *Financial Times* reported on Thursday.

Teheran has been offering a handful of potential customers in Asia 180 days of free credit, the newspaper said

quoting unnamed industry officials. Each month of credit amounted to a discount of roughly \$1.2 to \$1.5 a barrel. Despite its generous terms, Iran was struggling to find new customers, the FT said.

The United States and European Union have tightened sanctions on Iran's oil trade as they seek to reduce the flow of petrodollars and to force Teheran to halt a nuclear programme the West

suspects is intended to produce weapons.

Saudi Arabia and other leading Middle East oil producers extend 30 days of credit, and Teheran in the past has allowed importers such as China to pay in 60 to 90 days. Iran's offer of longer payment periods amounts to a discount of about 7.5 percent per \$118 barrel, the newspaper said.

Reuters

China, Fiji sign economic, technical cooperation deal

SUVA, 13 April — China and Fiji signed three documents here Friday, agreeing on further strengthening economic and technical cooperation.

The documents, which include an economic and technical cooperation agreement and two letters of exchange, were signed between Fiji's Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming who is leading a

delegation on a 4-day visit to Fiji. Under one letter of exchange, China will help Fiji in its development of the Rice Industry Project in Vanua Levu, one of the Fijian Government's initiatives for the revival of the northern division's economy. This will result in the visit of a technical team comprising of eight experts from China that will conduct a feasibility study of what is required to keep the industry sustainable.—Xinhua

Serbia finds stolen Cezanne worth \$100 million

BELGRADE/ZURICH, 13 April — Police in Serbia have recovered a painting by the French artist Paul Cezanne that was stolen at gunpoint from a Swiss museum four years ago, officials said on Thursday. Cezanne's *Boy in a Red Waistcoat*, which media said was worth more than \$100 million, was one of four paintings stolen from the E G Buehrle Collection in Zurich in 2008 by a trio of masked robbers who burst in just before closing time and told staff to lie on the floor while they took what they wanted.

The heist was one of the largest in the world at the time. Four men were arrested in the capital Belgrade and the southwestern town of Cacak on Wednesday in connection with the theft and



A police handout shows the painting 'The Boy in the Red Vest' (painted in 1894/95) by French artist Paul Cezanne (1839 - 1906) in Zurich on 11 Feb, 2008. INTERNET

office said. At a Press conference in Belgrade, Miljko Radisavljevic, the special prosecutor for organized crime, said the suspects wanted to sell the painting, found in the door panel of a car, for as little as 3.5 million euros. "They received 2.8 million euros before the arrest," he said.

Boy in a Red Waistcoat, thought to have been painted in 1888, depicts a boy in traditional Italian dress wearing a red waistcoat, a blue handkerchief and a blue belt. Three other versions of the painting are in museums in the United States. Two of the stolen canvasses, one by Claude Monet and the other by Vincent Van Gogh, were recovered not long after the robbery, abandoned in a car.

Reuters

the director of the Buehrle collection confirmed the authenticity of the painting, the Zurich state prosecutor's

UN asks Indonesia to step up fighting against malaria

JAKARTA, 13 April — The United Nations asked Indonesia to step up effort in fighting against malaria as part of the Millennium Development Goals, Indonesian deputy minister said here on Friday.

The request was delivered by the UN special envoy for fighting malaria Princess Astrid during meeting with Indonesian first lady Ani Bambang Yudhoyono at the State Palace here.

The UN expected Indonesia to raise the issue of malaria at the international forum such as ASEAN and G-20, Deputy Health Minister Ali Gufron said.

"Princess Astrid wants Indonesia to bring the issue of malaria at the international forum and make it one of the main agenda," he told a Press conference after the meeting.

Indonesia has taken part in the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, as the country applied several programme on fighting malaria.—Xinhua



A visitor visits the Indian Garden at the Floriade 2012 in Venlo, the Netherlands, on 12 April, 2012. The Floriade 2012 exposition, a once-a-decade gardening extravaganza, opened to the public on Thursday featuring displays from 35 different countries.—XINHUA

India to allow investment from Pakistan, open border post

NEW DELHI, 13 April — India has decided to allow foreign direct investment from Pakistan, India's trade minister said on Friday, hours before the two countries were due to open a trading post on the border in the latest sign of thawing economic ties.

Liberalizing heavily restricted trade and investment flows is now the driver of peace efforts between the neighbours, whose fragile ties were shattered in 2008.

"India has taken an in-principle decision, as a part of the process to deepen our economic engagement, to allow foreign direct investments from Pakistan in India," said Trade Minister Anand Sharma at a news conference with his Pakistani counterpart.

Despite thousands of years of shared history and culture and a combined population of 1.4 billion people, cross-border trade remains paltry - a legacy of three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947.

Under current rules, Pakistani citizens cannot directly invest in India. Investment flows are unlikely to surge, but the move will go some way to addressing concerns by Pakistani businessmen that India places too many restrictions on them.

More than 600 Pakistani businesses are in New Delhi this week at a trade fair to promote their products to the Indian market.

In the face of some domestic opposition, the government of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari last November vowed to grant India most favoured nation status, which ends restrictions that require most products to move via a third country.

The move was hailed by India and the two countries are now focused on resolving economic issues before moving on to more intractable problems such as the disputed region of Kashmir.

Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1216)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1216) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.4.2012 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
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

The AA said the so-called taxi of mum and dad was still very much in evidence.—INTERNET

Hours spent driving children about, AA survey suggests

dads' taxi is still very much in operation."

He added: "Besides taking up a lot of time, parents driving habits can influence the drivers their children will become later in life so it's important they set a good example on these journeys. "Hopefully many of those hours spent driving the children to their activities will be re-paid when they are old enough to drive themselves and keen to get behind the wheel - even if it's just popping to the supermarket to help their mum out."

AA Driving School said that with the average number of children per family at 1.9 it meant many parents were spending nearly double the times given in the survey driving their children.

The AA/Populus research also found that just under a fifth (19%) of parents said they spend at least £1,200 a year per child on hobbies and activities, including the transport costs of getting them there.

Parents in London appeared to fork out the most, with one in 20 spending more than £200 per child every month on such activities. AA Driving School said that was equal to parents spending £43,200 for each offspring through their childhood up to the age of 18.

Internet

Icann's internet suffix application deadline looms

WASHINGTON, 13 April—Organizations wishing to buy web addresses ending in their brand names have until the end of Thursday to submit applications. For example, drinks giant Pepsi can apply for .pepsi, .gatorade or .tropicana as an alternative to existing suffixes such as .org or .com. Parties are able to request up to 50 web address endings. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers plans to publish application details on 30 April.

Companies had to sign up to its process by March to qualify for the upcoming deadline. It says 839 users are taking part. Canon and Google are among the companies to have said that they paid the

\$185,000 (£116,355) fees required to take part in the process. Nominet, the organization which manages .uk domains, confirmed it was also applying for .wales and .cymru. Successful applicants also face \$25,000 in costs per year to maintain the addresses.

"We plan to apply for Google's trademarked gTLDs, and we're currently exploring opportunities to apply for new ones as well," the search giant told the BBC. "We want to help make this a smooth experience for web users - one that promotes innovation and competition on the internet." Other organizations were less forthcoming - Facebook, the BBC and Coca-Cola would

not comment on their plans. "We do not disclose details of any proprietary marketing plans until they are public facing," the drinks maker said.

The process has the potential to cause problems among firms that share brand names. The US and German firms that both operate under the name Merck have already clashed over ownership of a Facebook page. "We're monitoring the Icann gTLD application process with interest," Ron Rogers, a spokesman for the New Jersey-based company, told the BBC. Anheuser-Busch InBev and Budejovicky Budvar may face similar conflict over their claims to own the Budweiser beer brand.— *Internet*

Locals are evacuated out of buildings after an 8.5 magnitude earthquake and aftershocks jolted northern Sumatra, in Medan, Indonesia, on 11 April, 2012.
XINHUA



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PHILIP VOY NO (013)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHILIP VOY NO (013) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.4.2012 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
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Chavez says he's 'doing very well' after treatment

CARACAS, 13 April—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez returned to Venezuela on Wednesday, saying he's "doing very well" following cancer treatment in Cuba. After flying in to Simon Bolivar International Airport, Chavez met with several. The president says he's been recovering well since surgery in February that removed a second tumor from his pelvic region.

He has regularly traveled to and from Cuba for cancer treatment since last June, when he says an initial surgery removed his first tumor, which was the size of a baseball. Chavez has not identified the type of cancer or the precise location where the two tumors were.

The 57-year-old leader has vowed to overcome cancer and win re-election on 7 Oct. His political foes argue Chavez is not fit to continue governing the country because his health is failing — an allegation the president vehemently denies. "We have less than six months before 7 Oct, let's get ready," said Chavez, urging government supporters to gear up for the crucial vote.— *Internet*



Photos of US warship "Independence" disclosed. The vessel is intended as a small assault transport that can take on various capabilities with the installation of mission modules.— XINHUA

Collapse of Antarctic ice sheet linked to ancient 'mega flood'

CANBERRA, 13 April —Dramatic warming at the end of the last ice age produced an intense rise in sea level and a massive ice sheet collapse in the Antarctic. The sea level rise is known as Melt-Water Pulse 1A, and new research indicates it increased sea level by about 45 feet (14 metres) sometime between 14,650 and 14,310 years ago, during the same time as a period of rapid climate change known as the Bølling warming. Understanding the impacts of

earlier warming and sea level rise is important for predicting the effects of future warming.

"It is vital that we look into Earth's geological past to understand rare but high-impact events, such as the collapse of giant ice sheets that occurred 14,600 years ago," study researcher Alex Thomas of Oxford University said in a statement. "Our work gives a window onto an extreme event in which deglaciation coincided with a dramatic and rapid rise in

global sea levels—an ancient 'mega flood.'"

During this period, "sea level rose more than ten times more quickly than it is rising now," Thomas said, with the rising seas resulting from melting ice sheets that had formed during the ice age. "This is an excellent test bed for climate models: If they can reproduce this extraordinary event, it will improve confidence that they can also predict future change accurately."— *Internet*

Shaken by shooting, Chinese still seek US colleges

BEIJING, 13 April —Chinese parents say the shooting deaths of two Chinese students near the University of Southern California is a concern but will not deter them from seeking an American education for their children.

Chinese students and

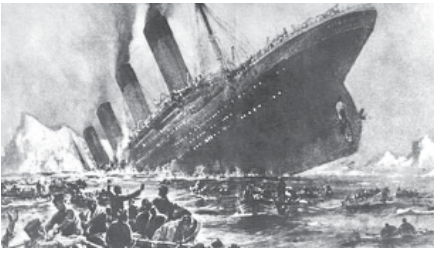
education consultants say the shootings in Los Angeles are isolated. One parent, Wu Qing, said Thursday that although she is worried her 18-year-old son will continue his studies at the California Institute of Technology in nearby Pasadena.

According to US-based

Institute of International Education, China sent nearly 160,000 students to US colleges last year, more than any other country. USC has about 2,500 Chinese students. It's within a mile of neighbourhoods that have been plagued with crime.

Internet

Women first rule 'ignored in ship disasters'



Research suggests that in a crisis women are only first into lifeboats when the rule is backed up with force.

The belief that women and children are first to be saved when ships sink is largely a myth, a new study suggests. Analysis of survivors from 18 maritime disasters shows women "have a distinct survival disadvantage", say researchers at Uppsala University in Sweden. The report says captains and crew have a significantly higher survival

rate. The Titanic disaster 100 years ago this week was a rare exception because the captain threatened to shoot those who disobeyed, they conclude.

But the "women and children first" rule is now seen as the normal way to behave in emergencies. The authors of the report, economists Mikael Elinder and Oscar Erixson, say the captain has

the power to enforce the rule. But they say their findings show that behaviour in real life-or-death situations is best captured by the expression "every man for himself".

The study covered sea disasters spanning three centuries, involving more than 15,000 people. The authors say data from 16 of the ships had never been analysed in this way before.

Performers dance to a different tune

When Alison Friedman first came to China in 2002 on a Fulbright fellowship to research modern dance, local residents had little idea what it was. "Most people would say, 'Oh, you mean hip-hop?' or 'You mean disco in a bar?'" recalled Friedman, who later founded Ping Pong Productions to develop cultural exchange projects between Chinese and international performers.

"Now when I say I research modern dance, they'll say, 'Oh, like Pina Bausch?' (the late German dancer, choreographer and director) or 'Oh, like the Beijing Modern Dance

Company?" The difference is amazing. People are more aware of what it is, and there are definitely bigger and bigger audiences." The birth of modern dance in China can be traced back to the latter stages of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) when Yu Rongling, the daughter of the then ambassador to France, studied with Isadora Duncan in Paris. Yu later returned to China and performed this type of new dance for Empress Dowager Cixi.



Dancers shape up at a theater in Beijing.

Measurements in bakeries 'take the cake'

When it comes to pricing their delicacies by size, Chinese bakeries could be said by customers "to be taking the cake". In most bakeries, cakes are only labeled with their diameter measured in cun, which most people think is a Chinese unit of 3.33 centimetres. However, to bakeries it stands for the much shorter "inch" (2.54 cm), or ying cun. And it makes a big difference when buying cakes. If the cun means inch, a 10-cun cake is 506 square centimeters. If it's the Chinese measure, the cake is a tasty 870 sq cm.

"It's confusing. Why can't they write down the exact size, rather than simply put an abbreviation there?" said Zhang Huijie, a white-collar worker in Shanghai, with a sweet tooth. "In fact, it's difficult for ordinary people to calculate the size of the cake using either of the measurement units.

News Album

Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan 'detained' in US

NEW YORK, 13 April — Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan says he was detained by US authorities for 90 minutes at White Plains airport, which serves New York. The actor, who arrived on a private plane, was on the way to Yale University for a function. It is not clear why Khan was detained at the airport. Khan was earlier detained for two hours in 2009 at Newark airport and was released after India's embassy in the US intervened.

The actor had then said he was stopped because he had a Muslim name. US Customs officials had denied that Khan had been detained, saying he was questioned. The Press Trust of India news

agency quoted sources as saying that Khan was stopped and questioned for over two hours before being cleared by immigration officials on Thursday. He was freed after Yale University officials contacted homeland security and customs officials, the BBC's Salim Rizvi in New York said.

"Khan was very very upset over the episode," the CNN-IBN channel said, quoting unnamed sources. Later, he told the students of Yale University that he had been stopped and questioned at the airport. But, he made light of the incident and joked about it. "Whenever I want to stay at the airport, I should



Khan is Bollywood's top star.—INTERNET

come to the US. "They [officials] asked me what my height was, and I lied. Then they asked me what my colour. I lied and said I was white," he said. Khan has appeared in more than 70 films and is considered one of India's most recognisable and popular celebrities.—Internet

JK Rowling announces title of first adult novel

LONDON, 13 April — Author JK Rowling has announced her first adult novel will be called *The Casual Vacancy*. The Harry Potter writer revealed in February that she was working on the book, and said it would be "very different" from her previous material. The book will be published worldwide in hardback, e-book and as an audio download and CD on 27 September. "The freedom to explore new territory is a gift that Harry's success has brought me," Rowling said.

The story is centred on the death of Barry Fairweather, whose unexpected passing shocks the local villagers of Pagford. Publishers Little, Brown & Co said: "Pagford is, seemingly, an English idyll,

with a cobbled market square and an ancient abbey, but what lies behind the pretty facade is a town at war." The company describes the tale as being "blackly comic, thought-provoking and constantly surprising". Speaking at the premiere of the final Potter movie last year, Rowling told BBC News that the movie marked the start of a new writing direction. "I think I always felt that I didn't want to

publish again until the last film was out, because Potter has been such a huge thing of my life. "I've been writing hard ever since I finished writing [Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, so I've got a lot of stuff. And I suppose it's a question of deciding which one comes out first."

More than 450 million copies of Rowling's seven Potter books have been sold worldwide. The novels, about a boy wizard who survives the attack that kills his parents, became a worldwide phenomenon and were turned into eight blockbuster films starring Daniel Radcliffe. When the final instalment of the book series went on sale in 2007, thousands of copies sold in minutes.—Internet



JK Rowling wrote seven Harry Potter books.—INTERNET

Madonna album suffers record sales slump in US

LONDON, 13 April — Madonna's MDNA has suffered the biggest second-week drop in sales for a number one album in US chart history. The record debuted at the top of the Billboard chart last week, but has now fallen to number eight. That reflects a drop in sales from 359,000 in week one to 48,000 copies in week two - a decline of 86.7%.

Lady Gaga previously held the title. Her 2011 album Born This Way fell from 1.1 million copies in its first week to 174,000 in week two, an 84% decline. MDNA was knocked off the top spot this week in the US and in the UK by Nicki Minaj's album Pink Friday.—Roman

Reloaded, which went straight in at number one in both countries. The rapper features twice on Madonna's album, along with the singer's 15-year-old daughter, Lourdes, who sings on track Superstar.

Neilsen Soundscan, which compiles the chart, predicted MDNA's large fall, as its first-week sales included albums given away with concert tickets, as well as pre-orders from iTunes. Also, without a current hit single or any recent promotion on Madonna's part, the drop was bound to be significant. In the UK, MDNA fell from number one to number seven this week in The Official Album Chart.—Internet



Madonna starts a 90-date world tour in Israel with a concert in Israel.—INTERNET

Adele tops young musicians rich list with £20 million

LONDON, 13 April — Adele has become the richest young musician in the UK, with an estimated fortune of £20m. Last year's *Sunday Times* Rich List estimated her to be worth £6m but massive sales of her album 21 have helped her gain another £14m in the past 12 months. Adele has beaten other young stars such as JLS and Jessie J to the top spot. Cheryl Cole is second equal on the list with

Leona Lewis, with each having fortunes valued at £12m. Only two of the top 10 richest young musicians are men. Both Craig David and Paolo Nutini are joint sixth, with £8m apiece.

The rest of the top of the chart is dominated by women, including Charlotte Church (£8m), Florence Welch (£7m) and Lily Allen (£6m). Daniel Radcliffe is still the richest actor under 30. His latest film

The Woman In Black has helped him to amass a total of £54m, up from £48m last year. His Harry Potter co-stars also feature on the list, with Rupert Grint thought to be worth £24m.

Emma Watson features on both the lists for actors and models and has a fortune of £26m. Robert Pattinson has made the biggest increase in his fortune. His worth has gone from £32m in 2011 to



Adele has become the richest young musician in the UK, with an estimated fortune of £20m.—INTERNET

£40m this year. He is second on the list behind Daniel Radcliffe. JLS and Jessie J are the only new pop stars to appear on the rich list for young musicians.—Internet

China censors Winslet's bare breasts

BEIJING, 13 April — China's State Administration of Radio, Film and Television says it cut a shot of a topless Kate Winslet from the 3D version of "Titanic."

The 1997 epic starring Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio as star-crossed lovers was re-released worldwide in time for the 100th anniversary of the historic sinking of the luxury liner during its maiden voyage.

A memorable scene in which DiCaprio's poor artist Jack sketches Winslet's society girl Rose naked has been edited in China so Winslet is only seen from the neck up.

"Considering the vivid 3D effects, we fear that viewers may reach out their hands for a touch and thus interrupt other people's viewing," the administration said in a statement. "We've

decided to cut off the nudity scenes."

E! News said one Chinese man complained about the alteration in an online film forum. "I've been waiting almost 15 years, and not for the 3D icebergs," he wrote.—Internet



English actress Kate Winslet attends the World Premiere of "Titanic 3D" at The Royal Albert Hall in London on 17 March, 2012.—INTERNET

Football Extravaganza starts 20 Seasons celebrations

Star-studded charity dinner in London marks Premier League's 20th anniversary

LONDON, 13 April — Celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the Premier League began in London on Wednesday at the 17th Football Extravaganza. The annual dinner, which first took place in 1996, sees the football and music industries come together to raise money for Nordoff-Robbins, a national organisation which helps ill and vulnerable people of all ages across the UK. And this year, more than £350,000 was raised for the charity through table sales, auctions and raffles.

Star-studded

Nordoff-Robbins uses music as a form of therapy and, through the Football Extravaganza, the Premier League has already helped them raise £6m for their

Several Premier League legends attended Wednesday's Football Extravaganza in London. — INTERNET

important work. The star-studded event at the Grosvenor House Hotel also doubled up as a celebration of 20 Seasons of the Premier League. The gala was attended by a host of current and former players and managers who were able to look back on the best of all things Premier League since its first season in 1992/93. Seated at the top table were heroes from the last two decades, including Frank Lampard, Gary Neville, Steve

Bruce, Alan Shearer, Brad Friedel, Graeme Souness, Colin Hendry, Brian Deane and Sol Campbell.

500 Club

There was a 500 theme for the evening, with accolades going to the six players who are members of the exclusive 'Premier League 500 Club' (those who have played 500 matches in the competition). Sol Campbell, David James, Emile Heskey and Frank Lampard all received awards, Ryan Giggs

recorded a special message as he was in action for Manchester United, while Gary Speed's widow Louise collected his honour. An exclusive Premier League book was also put up for auction. The black leather-bound book contains 20 images of football icons from the last 20 years chosen by a panel from the Premier League.

Each of the icons signed the book and more than half wrote personal messages. Also part of the auction was a Fiat 500 signed on the dashboard by Jose Mourinho, which sold for £16,000. The former Chelsea manager had paid £18,000 for the car at last year's Football Extravaganza and donated it back. The Premier League's 20 Seasons Awards, which will honour the greatest players, managers and moments in Premier League history, will be launched on Tuesday 17th April.

Internet



Dortmund defender Neven Subotic (right) and Bayern Munich's Arjen Robben react after Robben missed the penalty kick during the German first division Bundesliga football match. — INTERNET

Robben red-faced by key penalty miss at Dortmund

MUNICH, 13 April — Bayern Munich's Arjen Robben has admitted he was embarrassed by his crucial penalty miss in his team's 1-0 defeat at German league leaders Dortmund which looks to have handed their rivals the title.

Robben could only watch in horror as his 86th-minute penalty attempt was saved by Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller with second-placed Bayern trailing at Borussia's Signal Iduna Park

stadium on Wednesday. The defeat leaves Munich six points behind Dortmund with four games left and Robben's miss means Dortmund are on course for a second consecutive league title. "That is very bitter and very disappointing," said Robben. "In the last three years I have converted 10 or 11 penalties in succession.

"That was the first one I have missed and, yes, that was really embarrassing."

Internet

Liverpool's third choice keeper Jones set for

LIVERPOOL, 13 April — Liverpool's third-choice goalkeeper Brad Jones looks set to start Saturday's FA Cup semi-final against city rivals Everton after the club's appeal against second choice Doni's suspension was rejected. Jones, whose young son Luca died of leukaemia late last year, was thrust into the spotlight at Blackburn Rovers in midweek when Doni was dismissed for bringing down Junior Hoilett in the penalty area with Liverpool leading the Premier League game 2-0.

The Australia international's first job was to save Yakubu's spotkick, after which he raised a finger to the sky. While he was twice beaten later in the 3-2 victory, once from the spot after he escaped a red card after a fumble, his performance and composure so soon after a personal tragedy impressed manager Kenny Dalglish.

"You can only guess what it must be like to go through what he's been through, but he has done and I'm sure he

enjoyed his first bit of action on Tuesday night, saving a penalty," Dalglish said of Jones, who was signed from Middlesbrough in August 2010 but has rarely featured.

"We know that to do what he's done has shown a great deal of strength of character." Doni's appeal was rejected by the FA, a statement from the English governing body said on Thursday. With regular keeper Pepe Reina also suspended following a recent sending off against Newcastle United, Liverpool have recalled youngster Peter Gulacsi from a loan spell at Hull City as backup for the semi-final at Wembley.

While it will be an emotional day for Perth-born Jones, it will also be a poignant occasion for the club on the weekend of the 23rd anniversary of the Hillsborough tragedy in which 96 Liverpool fans died at an FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest. Dalglish was manager on that occasion in his first stint in charge and

said it was fitting Saturday's semi-final was against Everton, the team Liverpool beat to win the FA Cup final in 1989 just weeks after the shocking events in Sheffield. — Internet

Three share lead at PGA Harbour Town

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, 13 April — Chad Campbell got off to a hot start en route to a four-under 67 at the RBC Heritage, good enough for a share of the first-round lead alongside Vaughn Taylor and Colt Knost. Campbell on Thursday birdied four of his first seven holes on the par-71 Harbour Town Golf Links layout, finishing with six birdies and two bogeys. Taylor and Knost joined him atop the leaderboard with solid finishes — Knost nabbing birdies at three of his last five holes and Taylor holing out from the fairway for an eagle at his final hole, the par-four ninth. US veteran Jim Furyk, the 2010 champion, was a stroke back on 68 along with Harris English, South Korean Charlie Wi and Matt Every.

Three more players — Blake Adams, John Mallinger and Chez Reavie — were tied on 69. England's Luke Donald, who must finish eighth or better to hold on to his world number one ranking, opened with a four-over 75. Donald teed off on 10 and bogeyed 12 and the par-five 15th.

Another bogey at the first was followed by his only birdie of the day at the par-five second, but he gave back two strokes with a double-bogey

Wozniacki makes it perfect twelve in Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, 13 April — Topseed Caroline Wozniacki won her 12th match in 12 career outings at the Copenhagen

Open on Thursday as she moved closer to a third title with a 6-2, 6-1 second round rout of France's Pauline Parmentier. The home star's win was in contrast to her opening round struggle past Poland's Urszula Radwanska.

"I got more used to the surface compared to the last match and that was definitely a difference," said Wozniacki, who plays another Frenchwoman, Alize Cornet, in Friday's quarter-finals. "It was a very different match compared to the last one." Wozniacki is now 12-0 at this event and has won 17 straight sets, the second set of her 2010 semi-final triumph over Anna Chakvetadze being the last one she lost.

Second seed Angelique



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark returns the ball to Pauline Parmentier of France during their WTA Danish Open women's tennis match in Furum, north of Copenhagen. Wozniacki won her 12th match in 12 career outings at the Copenhagen Open on Thursday as she moved closer to a third title with a 6-2, 6-1 second round rout of Parmentier. — INTERNET

Kerber of Germany had a much tougher path to the quarters, beating Britain's Anna Keothavong, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, and will face compatriot Mona Barthel in the last eight.

Internet

Banned Ivanovic to miss Chelsea's FA Cup semi-final

LONDON, 13 April — Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic will miss Sunday's FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley after being handed a three-match ban by the Football Association (FA). The Serbian international was found guilty of violent conduct on Thursday following an incident in the 2-1 Premier League victory over

Wigan Athletic at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, the FA said in a statement.

Television replays showed Ivanovic lashing out at Wigan's Shaun Maloney in an off-the-ball incident unseen by the match officials and he was charged retrospectively.

Ivanovic appealed against the charge but it was dismissed by the FA.

The defender will also miss Premier League games against Arsenal and Queens Park Rangers but is available for both legs of the Champions League semi-final against Barcelona. — Reuters



Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic.



Liverpool's goalkeeper Brad Jones.

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-4-12 09:30 am ~
15-4-12 09:30 am) MST

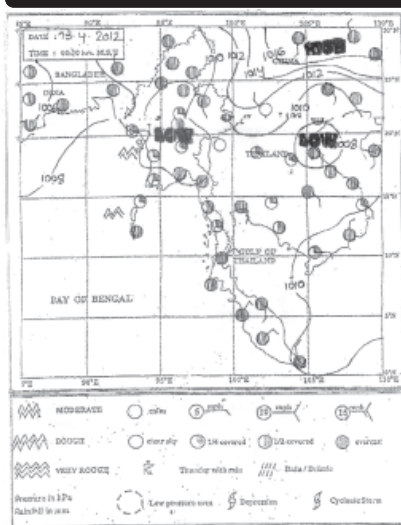
- News
- Traditions and Customs of Inlay Thingyan
- News
- Thingyan Songs & Dances
- Nivea Blue Planet
- News
- Evergreen Classical Music (Part-7)
- News
- Thingyan Songs & Dances
- News
- Visitation to Mawlamyine (Part - II)
- News
- Music Gallery
- News
- Secret Places for Yummy Foods "Myanmar Favourite Snacks"
- News
- Emerging Evidence of Iron Age
- Myanmar Movie
- "KAMMA"

MYANMAR TV

(14-4-2012) (Saturday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Nice and Sweet Song
- 8:15 am
- 3. Dance of Thingyan Festival
- 11:00 am
- 4. Martial Song
- 11:20 am
- 5. Thingyan Performance of Yoyin Kids
- 1:25 pm
- 6. Thingyan Decades Ago (Zaw Warm)
- 2:45 pm
- 7. Dance Of National Races
- 5:25 pm
- 8. Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 5:30 pm
- 9. International Science News
- 6:20 pm
- 10. Dance of Thingyan Festival
- 8:00 pm
- 11. News
- 12. Myanmar Movies

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 14th April, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	32/90	19/66	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	34/93	16/61	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	35/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	24/75	10/50	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	20/82	19/66	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	35/102	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Taiwan	30/100	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	35/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	41/106	24/75	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	35/102	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	30/100	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	35/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	33/91	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	28/82	16/61	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	34/93	15/50	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	34/93	17/63	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	37/97	24/75	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	41/106	24/75	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/102	22/72	Partly cloudy	

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Sagaing Region and Chin State, scattered in Mandalay Region and Shan State, isolated in Magway Region, Kachin and Rakhine States and weather has been partly cloudy in remaining Region and state. Day temperature were (°C) above April average temperatures in Chin State, (°C) below April average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperature were Chank (45°C), Mrobu (42°C) and Magway (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Patheingyi (0.30 inch) and Mandalay (0.32 inch).

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Sea will be light to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Environmental conservation talked in Lashio Township

LASHIO, 13 April—The talks on environmental conservation and protection of wildlife was organized by Forest Department in Panhsat Village-tract of Lashio Township on 29 March morning.

At the talks, Staff Officer of Township Forest Department U Hla Oo and Senior Forester U Sai Tun Lu explained environmental conservation and protection of wildlife.

Local senior forester U Soe Hla gave talks on forest law and rules, laws on wildlife conservation.

Myanma Alin



COMMUNAL NOVITIATION HELD: The third communal novitiation ceremony was held in Ward 12 of Hline Township on 9 April. Ward Administrator U Ohn Myint and Chairman of Ward Sasana Nuggaha Association U Kyaw Myint cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.—MYANMA ALIN

Indian helicopter makes emergency landing on rooftop

BANGALORE, 13 April—A helicopter has made an emergency landing on the roof of an apartment building in a busy residential area of the Indian City of Bangalore.

Reports say the helicopter was on a routine training flight when its engine failed, forcing the aircraft down.

The five-storey building was evacuated with no injuries reported and both the pilot and co-pilot are safe, an official said.

With its rotor damaged, officials are looking at how to move the helicopter.

The helicopter belongs to the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (Hal)

and was flying out of a nearby airport. Residents said they heard a loud noise when the helicopter began its descent and everyone gathered on rooftops to watch. Without a



There was no open space on the ground for the pilots to land. INTERNET

Shi'ite pilgrims killed in Iraq ambushes



A member of Iraqi special forces uses a pair of binoculars to keep vigil at a checkpoint in central Baghdad.—REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 13 April—Armed men killed seven Shi'ite pilgrims in ambushes on Friday, police and hospital sources said, in the latest attacks to highlight underlying sectarian and ethnic tensions in Iraq.

Political tensions in the country have been high since US troops withdrew in December, when Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government moved against two top Sunni officials — seeking the arrest of Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi and the removal of Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq.

The crisis sparked protests in Sunni strongholds and raised fears of a return to the sectarian slaughter that engulfed Iraq a few years ago.

On Friday, two cars blocked a bus carrying pilgrims from Baghdad to a

key Shi'ite shrine in the northern, mainly Sunni, city of Samarra. Some seven gunmen opened fire, killing five and wounding six of them

WASHINGTON, 13 April—World heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko will face Tony "The Tiger" Thompson of the United States in a mandatory defence of his IBF title in Bern, Switzerland, on 7 July, it was announced on Thursday.

"As a southpaw, Thompson is hard to box against," said the 36-year-old Klitschko. "He is good technically and he has already given me one of the hardest fights of my career." Thompson, 40, suffered the last defeat of his career with an 11th round knock-out at the hands of Klitschko in July 2008. The American has lost

in the attack at around 5am (0200 GMT) near Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of the capital, a local police source said.

The bombing of the golden-domed Askari shrine in Samarra in 2006 was a catalyst in igniting two years of sectarian violence that drove Iraq to the brink of civil war.

A second incident occurred at 7.30am in the southern outskirts of Baghdad when gunmen killed two Shi'ite pilgrims en route to the holy Shi'ite city of Kerbala in Iraq's south. Six others were wounded, police and hospital sources said.

MNA/Reuters

Klitschko to defend titles against Thompson

only two of his 38 fights, but with a dearth of good heavyweights to challenge

him, Klitschko has now been the undisputed champion for the last four years. As well as



Vladimir Klitschko (left) of Ukraine fights Tony Thompson of the US during their WBO heavyweight title bout in July, 2008 in Hamburg.—INTERNET

defending his IBF belt, the fight will see Klitschko put his WBA, WBO and IBO titles on the line. At six foot five inches, Thompson is just an inch shorter than Klitschko.

"Because of his size, this will be a fight at eye level and he will have taken some confidence after winning all of his fights since we last met," said Klitschko. This will be the first time Klitschko has fought in Switzerland and the last time the Ukrainian climbed in the ring was when he enjoyed the 50th KO of his career with a technical knock-out of France's Jean-Marc Mormeck in March.

Internet

clear space on the ground to land, the pilots opted to land on the roof of the Maitree Apartments building, Hal chief test pilot Wing Commander Unni Pillai told the TV channel Times Now.

The pilots have been taken to a hospital for a check-up.

"The helicopter has sustained minor damages to its rotor blades," a police officer said.

Officials say the helicopter will either have to be dismantled or airlifted. The aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, has reportedly ordered an investigation and a team is on its way to the site.

Internet

British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—A goodwill delegation led by British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron, arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by special flight, at 11:45 am today.

They were welcomed there by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye

Myint Kyu, departmental heads and British Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Andrew Richard Heyn.

The delegation led by

British Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for Universities and Science Hon. Mr. David Willets and high-ranking officials and entrepreneurs.—MNA

**Union Minister for Foreign Affairs
U Wunna Maung Lwin welcomes British
Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. David Cameron
at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.**

MNA



Nay Pyi Taw in festive mood, people celebrate water festival in Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan for 2012



Shwe Than Lwin Company Family's Pandal packing with people Akya day of Maha Thingyan.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April — Pagodas and monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw have been thronged with devotees Practising meditation and doing meritorious deeds as from yesterday when Maha Thingyan water festival started.

Water throwing pandals along the Bogoyoke Road, Nay Pyi Taw-Lewe Road, Yangon-Mandalay Road in Nay Pyi Taw and in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon were packed with people splashing with water on revellers.

Similarly, Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri Township and Pobbathiri Township were in festive mood as the people were celebrating the water festival splashing revellers with water while wellwishers donated charity food to visitors from four directions.

At water throwing pandals on Yaza Thingaha Road in Nay Pyi Taw, revellers celebrated the new year water festival being accompanied on the music.

Yaza Thingaha Road was thronged with revellers soaked in water while they were walking along the road and on their cars and motorbikes today.

The third new year celebration in Nay Pyi Taw is more festive than the previous years. The water throwing pandals along the road were packed with revellers as artistes and dancers entertained them with songs and dances.

Golden Guest Hotel and Shwe Than Lwin Company also donated charity food to guests and revellers at their pandals.

In the afternoon, the revellers visited Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden, Safari Park and Zoological Garden here for recreation.

At Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Central Pandal for Maha Thingyan, choral dancers from ministries and companies performed dances while vocalists and film stars entertained the revellers with songs.—MNA

The Thingyan Days I Would Always Remember



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A visitor visits the Indian Garden at the Floriade 2012 in Venlo, the Netherlands, on 12 April, 2012.



Satellite mapping pinpoints penguin population



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Several Premier League legends attended Wednesday's Football Extravaganza in London.

Terry and Cole fit for Chelsea against Spurs

LONDON, 13 April—Skipper John Terry and left back Ashley Cole are both available for Chelsea's FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley this weekend after recovering from injuries, stand-in manager Roberto Di Matteo said on Friday.

Terry has been nursing a rib injury while Cole missed Chelsea's last two games with an ankle problem.

With regular right back Branislav Ivanovic suspended for the clash against Tottenham, the availability of the experienced Terry and Cole is a major boost for the Di Matteo who faces three crucial games in eight days.

"Ashley trained today and is fine, he's available," Di Matteo told reporters at Chelsea's training ground.

"It's a good time to have him back. John Terry came through training fine too."

Midfielder Oriol Romeu is ruled out through illness.

Chelsea face a pivotal period in their season with the Wembley clash against Tottenham on Sunday being followed by the first leg of their Champions League semi-final at home to Barcelona on Wednesday. The Blues then face third-placed Arsenal in the Premier League next Saturday as they try and stay in the hunt for a top-four finish in the league. Despite Barcelona looming on the horizon, Di Matteo's sole focus is on Tottenham as Chelsea try and regain the FA Cup they won for the sixth time in 2009-10 by beating Portsmouth who surprisingly beat Spurs in the semi-final.—Reuters



Arsenal's Theo Walcott (L) crosses the ball past Chelsea's Ashley Cole during their FA Cup semi-final match at Wembley Stadium on 18 April, 2009.

REUTERS