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The New Light of Myanmar

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Our Three Main National Causes * Non-disintegration of the Union * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win enjoy Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win (on Maha Thingyan Akyat Day) this morning enjoyed Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival for 1373 ME on the lawns of the Presidential Palace.

On arrival at the Maha Thingyan water throwing pandal on the lawns of the Presidential Palace at 9.15 am, the President and wife were garlanded by Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and staff families of the President Office in line with the fine Myanmar traditions.

Next, the President and wife cordially greeted film artistes and vocalists.

Together with Vice-Presidents Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, and Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, deputy ministers and families, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win enjoyed singing and dancing entertainments.

At the water throwing pandal, choral dancers of Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture and the Camp Commandant's Office of the Ministry of Defence, vocalists and renowned film stars presented Thingyan songs and dances to the accompaniment of the Myanma Athan modern music band.

After that, the President and wife together with the vice-presidents, members and families joyfully participated in water throwing festival of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan.

(See page 8)

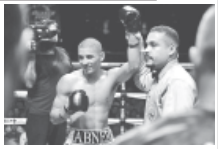
President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein pours Thingyan water on attendees at Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival on the lawns of the Presidential Palace.—MNA

Choral troupes, singers and film stars entertaining audience with Thingyan songs on the lawns of the Presidential Palace.—MNA

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (R), seen here during their Spanish La Liga match against Atletico Madrid on 11 April. He scored his seventh hat-trick of the season. **PAGE 14**

Eric Morel has adopted a now or never attitude in his bid to become a world champion for the first time in more than eight years.

PAGE 14



Singer and actress Jennifer Lopez and her husband, singer Marc Anthony.

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Brittany Spears appears back stage at the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on 28 August 2011.

PAGE 13

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 15 April, 2012

Towards a new great year

Thingyan, Myanmar Traditional New Year Festival, reaches its tail end. The last year went by in flash and a new year begins. The preceding year was a momentous one which witnessed plenty of noticeable changes in various fields.

During the previous year, the elected civillian government instituted a series of dramatic reforms and won domestic support and international recognition which was made tangible by a number of high-profile visits from the western countries once hostile to Myanmar. The government, marking its first anniversary of taking office, presented the people the free and fair by-elections as a gift. Some sanctions against her were lifted with some to be ended soon.

MPs debated public affairs and passed new legislations in three parliamentary sessions, thoroughly acting as a check and balance on the cabinet.

Peace talks with national race armed groups during the last year were said to be successful, entering into agreements at each level.

Signs indicated Myanmar's economy would soon boom, inviting more foreign direct investment. Lawmakers are also working to pass new legislations to lure more foreign investors. Fixed for decades, foreign currency became float in Myanmar as well.

Various restrictions on taxation, media and many other sectors were relaxed. Myanmar has had more and more transparency since the previous year, boosting chances for realization of "good governance and clean government".

To look back on the very recent year, it was a banner year. As we take a step towards a new year, we have to review our wish lists for the past year—how many yeses we could tip—and renew new ones, leaving out the things what we learned from the past year went against us.

We, the editorial board of the New Light of Myanmar, wish you all our subscribers and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar could tick yeses to each and every line on their wish lists for the coming year.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife and Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua and wife and diplomats happily take part in Golden Guest Hotel and Shwe Than Lwin Company's Maha Thingyan Festival. **(News on page 16)**

MNA

Union A & I Minister visits Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing yesterday morning visited Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation and six-acre quality paddy plantation in Taegyigon village in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 45-day thriving Palethwe paddy plantation (50 acres) in Chaing village, Dekkhinathiri Township and China-Myanmar hybrid paddy seed production at agricultural mechanized farming (100 acres) in Kyarku village in Dekkhinathiri Township.

After that, he also visited thriving paddy plantation in Alyinlo village in Pyinmana Township and 17-day Palethwe hybrid paddy at model agricultural mechanized farming (200 acres) in Yanaungmyin village in Dekkhinathiri Township.

Afterwards, the Union Minister called for conducting research in all aspects, ensuring from-lab-to-farm by experts after reviewing research findings and choosing most suitable strains for the region.

MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister inspects Pyidawtha rural housing project

***Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe inspects road section of Kungyangon-Tawkayan-West Bodin road.*—MNA**

YANGON, 14 April—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, accompanied by Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and Region ministers, met local people and coordinated access to potable water and extended construction of new school building at Basic Education High School (Branch) in Thaminchan village in Kawhmu township this morning.

The region chief minister paid homage to Thaminchan Village monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Çandanasiri and offered alms to the Sayadaw.

The region chief minister also inspected progress in construction of Kungyangon-Tawkayan-West Bodin road.

He also attended briefing for rural housing project in Pyidawtha village of Khalauktaya village-tract and heard reports submitted by officials. The Region chief minister gave necessary instructions and then inspected the project.

Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo and U Win Swe of Shwetaung Development Co Ltd reported on construction of Kungyangon-Dalla-Thakhut-Lekkhokkon Road.

The project is being implemented with the help of UNHABITAT, ADRA Myanmar and System Engineering Co Ltd.

MNA

Taninthayi Region Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival Central Pandal opens

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—Opening of Taninthayi Region Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival Central Pandal, was held, in the front of Dawei Town Hall on 12 April. Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko extended the greetings. Region Social Affairs Minister U Win Swe and Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo cut the ribbon to open the pandal. After that, they throw the scented water on and choral dances were performed at the pandal. The Region Chief Minister and party also attended openings of Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan pandals in Thayetchaung Township, Dawei District and in Dawei Station. The following day, the Region Chief Minister and the region ministers enjoyed the performance of choral dancers at pandals of Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Central Pandal in Dawei, and at Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance and Revenue Pandals.—*MNA*

Insein Township observes World TB Day 2012

YANGON, 14 April—In line with the motto "Stop TB, In My Life Time", the World TB Day 2012 was observed at Ayeyawady Hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Insein Township of Yangon North District in Yangon Region on 28 March morning.

Deputy Commissioner of Yangon North District General Administration Department made an opening address on the occasion.

Kyemon

*Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and India's Foreign Minister S M Krishna (From L to R) attend a joint Press conference after their meeting in Moscow, Russia, on 13 April, 2012. —*XINHUA

China, Russia, India look to positive roles abroad at meeting

MOSCOW,14 April—The foreign ministers of China, Russia and India agreed to play constructive roles in international and regional affairs, during their 11th trilateral talks here Friday. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the cooperative mechanism of China, Russia and India had strong vitality.

The mechanism served as an important platform for the emerging countries to seek peace, cooperation and development and demonstrated their will to promote mutually beneficial cooperation that did not target any third party, Yang said.

China advocated pragmatic cooperation and political dialogue in an equal, mutually beneficial way, in a bid to promote the trilateral and multilateral cooperation among the emerging countries, he said. During the meeting, the three countries agreed the world was undergoing complicated and profound changes and becoming irreversibly multipolar, with emerging and developing countries playing bigger roles than ever before. China, Russia and India, all emerging countries and members of the UN Security Council, were responsible for safeguarding peace, development and stability in the world, the three said.

Meanwhile, they also agreed to enhance their cooperation in the UN, the G20 group, BRICS and other multilateral mechanisms, in order to facilitate regional prosperity and stability and global economic recovery and development.

The countries would also promote multilateralism, democratization of international relations and peaceful and common prosperity in the world, they said.—*Xinhua*

First Confucius Institute in N Ireland opens its doors

BELFAST, 14 April — A new chapter in China-Northern Ireland ties has been opened with the launching of Northern Ireland's first Confucius Institute on Friday. The Confucius Institute at the University of Ulster (CIUU) opened its doors Friday with an opening ceremony in Jordanstown, near Belfast. China's State Councilor Liu Yandong, Northern Ireland's First Minister Peter Robinson, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and Vice Chancellor of the University of Ulster Richard Barnett attended the ceremony.

Liu said the high-level people-to-people exchange mechanism between China and Britain is the first of its kind between China and a European Union country. The mechanism would help the two countries further understand and learn from each other, and deepen friendship between the two peoples. Along with mutual political trust and economic and trade cooperation, the high-level people-to-people exchange mechanism forms one of the three pillars of the China-Britain relationship, she said. Speaking to teachers and students of the University of Ulster, Liu said educational exchange plays an important role in people-to-people exchanges.

China has made opening-up and cooperation parts of its national education plan, and is ready to work with high-level foreign universities to cultivate talents who have an international vision, she said. She hoped Chinese and British universities would deepen cooperation in the exchange of teachers and students, establishing research and development platforms, and sharing teaching ideas and other resources.— *Xinhua*

***Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong (3rd R), Northern Ireland's First Minister Peter Robinson (3rd L) and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness (2nd L) jointly unveil the plaque for the Confucius Institute at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, Britain, on 13 April , 2012.—*XINHUA**

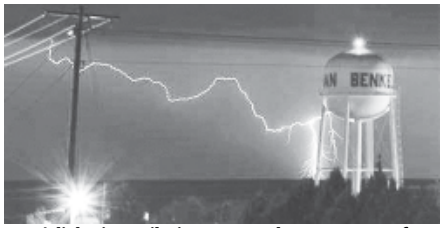
Tornado hits Oklahoma, more expected this weekend

CHICAGO, 14 April — Forecasters are warning of a major tornado outbreak in Kansas and Oklahoma this weekend, and Oklahoma got a first taste of it on Friday as a twister touched down near the National Weather Service office in Norman. A tornado was seen near the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman just after 4 pm local time - the same town that holds the National Storm Prediction Centre, according to a Twitter post from Rick Smith, a National Weather Service meteorologist.

The Norman tornado ripped roofs from buildings, downed power lines and uprooted trees across Norman, a town of 110,000 people 20 miles south of Oklahoma City, television images showed. City Hall was among the structures damaged, said Keli Cain, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management An operator at the University of Oklahoma said people had been warned to get to a basement or low floor. "I was watching this tornado on TV, which was neat until I realized it was right here in Norman," said the operator, who did not give a name.

Atmospheric conditions for the weekend will be similar to those that caused severe storms in parts of the Midwest and Southeast in early March that killed more than 50 people, said Steve Weiss, science support branch chief for the National Storm Prediction Center. "We see potentially some ... very damaging tornadoes," Weiss said. Oklahoma is already having severe weather Friday, and a twister was also reported in Copperton in the state's southwest corner.

Reuters



***A lightning strike is seen near the water tower of Benkelman, Nebraska on 12 April, 2012. —* INTERNET**

Slogan of London Olympic Games to be announced next week

LONDON, 14 April — The long-awaited slogan of the London Olympics will be announced next week when it's 100 days to go until the opening of the Games, LOCOG said here on Friday.

A source from the LOCOG told *Xinhua*, "I can confirm to you that the slogan will be announced at a press conference next week."

She refused to disclose the reason why LOCOG reveals the slogan so late. The slogan of the 2008 Beijing Olympics — 'One world, One dream', was unveiled in June 2005, over three years before the opening of the Games.

Xinhua

Powers seek to ease nuclear deadlock with Iran

ISTANBUL, 14 April — Iran and world powers have a rare chance on Saturday to halt a downward diplomatic spiral over Teheran's nuclear programme and ease fears of a new Middle East war when they resume stalled talks, but diplomats warn against expecting quick results. The negotiations in Istanbul, the first between Iran and the six powers in 15 months, are unlikely to yield any major breakthrough but Western diplomats hope at last to see readiness from Teheran to start discuss issues of substance.

That, they say, would mark a big change in Iran's attitude from the last meeting when it refused even to talk about its nuclear programme and could be enough for scheduling a second round of talks next month, perhaps in Baghdad. Such an outcome could, at least for the time being, dampen persistent speculation that Israel might launch military strikes on Iranian nuclear sites to prevent its enemy from obtaining atomic arms. Both sides say they are ready at the meeting, which is due to start at around 10 am (0700 GMT), to work towards resolving the deepening dispute over the nuclear programme which Iran says has purely peaceful purposes.

"For their own reasons, each side wants to give diplomacy a chance at this point, to start a process rather than to force a quick fix," said analyst Michael Adler at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars. Iran must show in Istanbul that it is willing to enter "serious engagement," one senior diplomat said, suggesting Saturday's discussions were unlikely to go into detailed issues. "My tip is to set your sights low," the diplomat said. "It is not part of our game plan for tomorrow to lay out a long list of specific demands and conditions. They know what we think about all these things."—*Reuters*

Mexican drug cartel leader sent to prison in Colorado

DENVER, 14 April — The leader of a Mexican drug cartel was sentenced on Friday to more than 22 years in prison by a federal judge in Colorado, who said the kingpin's criminal enterprise sold $1 billion worth of cocaine in eight US states. Oscar Arriola, 43, was "a clear and present danger to this country and its citizens," US District Judge Robert Blackburn said.

The cartel distributed cocaine in 2002 and 2003 in New York, Illinois, Georgia and five other states from a storage centre at a Colorado ranch, before an anonymous tip led to an investigation, the US Drug Enforcement Administration said. Arriola and his brother, Miguel, were among 29 people indicted in 2003 in federal court in Denver. Oscar Arriola was arrested in Mexico in 2006 and extradited to the United States in 2010. In 2010, Miguel Arriola was sentenced to 20 years in prison on drug trafficking charges involving the Arriola cartel's smuggling of tons of cocaine from Mexico to the United States.

Oscar Arriola pleaded guilty last year to drug trafficking and money laundering crimes. He was one of the top 35 drug traffickers in the world in 2002, Drug Enforcement agent and lead investigator Paul Roach said. A prison term of 22 1/2 years was justified, the judge said, because help Arriola provided to authorities while in US custody was "more than offset by the lives ruined." Arriola apologized to the judge for the harm his cartel inflicted on US residents.— *Reuters*

Experts sleuth out what killed Puget Sound orca

SEATTLE, 14 April—Two months after a 3-year-old endangered orca washed ashore bloodied and bruised in Washington state the cause of her death remains a mystery. Marine experts believe the female killer whale, known as L-112, died of massive blunt force trauma, but they're still examining evidence and waiting for tests of tissue samples to determine what caused that trauma. Some orca experts, however, suspect the injuries are linked to an underwater explosion or military training activity at sea.

Law enforcement officers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration last week began looking into the orca's death and are seeking information from the US Navy and other sources about their activities as part of its investigation, said NOAA spokesman Brian Gorman. "So far, there haven't been any red flags," he said. The Navy says it wasn't conducting activity off the coast in the weeks before 11 Feb, when the orca's 12-foot long carcass was discovered on Long Beach on Washington's southern coast.

The young female orca was a member of the "L'' pod, one of three groups of federally-protected killer whales that frequent Puget Sound, whose population now stands at 86. Conservations groups say her death represents a major reproductive loss for the marine mammals and, combined with recent naval sonar use in the region by the US and Canada, underscores the need for stricter protections for the marine mammals.—*Internet*

***In this 11 Feb, 2012 file photo provided by the Seaside Aquarium, a team works on a dead killer whale after it washed ashore near Long Beach, Wash.—*INTERNET**

'Living fossil' fish is even older than thought

NEW YORK, 14 April — The coelacanth, a "living fossil" fish that predates the dinosaurs, is some 17 million years older than previously thought, scientists have found. The earliest known skull of a coelacanth, unearthed in Yunnan, China dates the fish in its current shape to about 400 million years ago, according to research by the Chinese Academy of Sciences published on Tuesday in Nature Communications.

Coelacanths peaked in abundance about 240 million years ago. They were thought to have died out around 65 million years ago until one was caught off South Africa in 1938. Closely related to the lungfish, coelacanths usually live at depths of between 200 and 1,000 metres (650 and 3,250 feet). Greyish-brown with spots, they can grow up to two metres (6.5 feet) in length and weigh as much as 91 kilos (200 pounds).— *Internet*

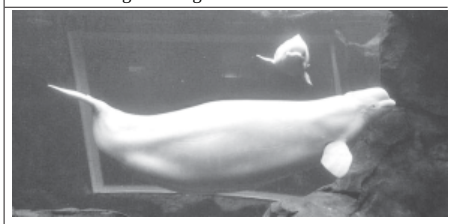
***The coelacanth, a "living fossil" fish that predates the dinosaurs, is some 17 million years older than previously thought, scientists have found.—* INTERNET**

science

What would happen If you fell into a Black Hole?

WASHINGTON, 14 April — Black holes are without question some of the strangest places in the universe. So massive that they hideously deform space and time, so dense that their centres are called "points at infinity," and pitch- black because not even light can escape them, it isn't surprising that so many people wonder what it would be like to visit one. It's not exactly a restive vacation spot, as it turns out. If you were to take a step into a black hole, your body would most closely resemble "toothpaste being extruded out of the tube," said Charles Liu, an astrophysicist who works at the American Museum of Natural History's Hayden Planetarium.

Liu said that when an object crosses a black hole's "event horizon" — its outer boundary, or point of no return — the same physics that causes Earth's ocean tides begins to take effect. Gravity's strength decreases with distance, so the moon pulls on the side of the Earth closer to it a bit more vigorously than the side farther from it, and as a result, Earth elongates ever so slightly in the direction of the moon. The land is sturdy, so it doesn't move much, but the water on Earth's surface is fluid, so it flows along the elongated axis.—*Internet*



Georgia Aquarium's resident pregnant beluga whale Maris swims in the aquarium's tank in Atlanta on 11 April, 2012. Maris, is expected to give birth by June. She the first mammal to conceive at the downtown Atlanta attraction since it opened in 2005.— INTERNET

Scientist beams up a real "Star Trek" tricorder

LOS ANGELES, 14 April — Starships, warp speed, transporters, phasers. Think "Star Trek" technology is only the stuff of fiction? Think again. Dr Peter Jansen, a PhD graduate of the Cognitive Science Laboratory at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, has developed a scientific measurement device based on the tricorders used by Captain Kirk, Spock, Dr McCoy and other space adventurers on the classic TV series that has spawned numerous spin-offs in more than 45 years. "Star Trek inspired me to be a scientist" said Jansen, who has been formally working on his tricorder prototypes since 2007, but toying with the idea of making a functioning device since he was "a kid in high school."

The 29-year-old Jansen's school days spanned the late 1990s when "Star Trek: Voyager" was on the air. It featured his favourite tricorder, a model with screens on top and bottom. The first tricorder appeared on the original show's initial episode in 1966, when Capt. Kirk swaggered toward audiences with his phaser weapon holstered to his side but a tricorder in his hand. The hand-held devices for data sensing, analysis and recording, have been a part of "Star Trek" ever since. But if Jansen, a self-confessed "addicted maker" of things, is successful at developing, testing and bringing his instrument into the public, the tricorder may not be just the stuff of "Star Trek" prop rooms. It may be used for real.

Jansen said his tricorder can take atmospheric measurements, or ambient temperature, pressure or humidity. It can take electromagnetic measurements to test magnetic fields, and it can make spatial measurements of distance, location, or motion. Fascinating, as Spock might say. Jansen thinks of his tricorder as a "general tool" — a kind of "Swiss Army Knife" — with practical uses in building inspection, for instance, where it might help taking temperature and humidity readings or be a distance sensor to measure rooms. It resembles the device carried by countless "Away Team" members in "Star Trek - The Next Generation" - his favorite of the "Star Trek" shows, he notes.— *Reuters*

A scientific measurement device developed by Dr Peter Jansen, a PhD graduate of the Cognitive Science Laboratory at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, based on the tricorders used by Captain Kirk, Spock, Dr McCoy and other space adventurers on the classic TV series that has spawned numerous spin-offs in more than 45 year, is pictured in this undated publicity photograph provided to Reuters on 13 April, 2012.— INTERNET

TECHNOLOGY

Samsung to showcase flagship OLED HDTV at IFA in August

SEOUL, 14 April — Samsung confirmed on Friday that its 55-inch OLED HDTV will be shown at Berlin's IFA trade show in late August, according to a report from SlashGear. At the event, the manufacturer will announce the TV's official launch details alongside a new, premium range of HDTVs. Samsung describes the new televisions as even "more premium" than its OLED models, although that may be in terms of functionality rather than design or display technology.

Samsung unveiled its OLED TV at the Consumer Electronics Show in January, however details remain scarce. Both television sets will reportedly support the newest iteration of Samsung AllShare, which will add a 5GB cloud account to its local DLNA-based service, along with a remote login system, in the latter part of 2012. Using a single account login, the feature will allow users to remotely access any of their Samsung devices located anywhere in the world.

Internet

Samsung to showcase flagship OLED HDTV at IFA in August.— INTERNET

These contact lenses give you superhuman vision

WASHINGTON, 14 April — Contact lens wearers can get a new perspective on their environment with the latest vision technology — contact lenses that let the wearer focus on two fields of view at once. Wearers can keep an eye on a projected image while their surrounding scenery can also be looked at — resulting in superhuman vision.

The human eye on its own can only focus on one distance at a time. The contact lenses, however, will let two images be viewed at the same time. The projected image goes through the retina display, while the background image is still visible. And, while most of the world is fascinated with Google Glasses, the Pentagon is focused on getting a supply of these contacts, called iOptik. It recently ordered a supply from Innovega, the company that makes them. The Pentagon will reportedly use the technology to develop display screens akin to what Arnold Schwarzenegger's character wore in the movie Terminator.

In addition to contact lenses, the company also makes glasses with projection images in the lenses, which it showed off at CES 2012. With this technology, the company said, glasses and lens wearers could view content from their mobile devices while still looking at the scenery around them.

The technology will be available to the public in 2014. Futurist tech has been used to address a number of health concerns, as well as expand on the human body's natural capabilities.

Internet

Nicotine patch may help prevent smoking relapses

NEW YORK, 14 April — Nicotine patches may help smokers recover from any initial setbacks in their attempt to kick the habit, a new US study suggests. "The clear implication is that you shouldn't give up, you should stay on the treatment with patch," said Saul Shiffman, one of the study's authors from the University of Pittsburgh. People who "lapse," or give in to nicotine cravings when trying to quit, are at high risk of giving up and returning to smoking. But contrary to common perception, they haven't failed at quitting and may get over initial lapses by continuing to use the patch, Shiffman said. His team's study, published in the journal *Addiction*, suggests that along with helping people stop smoking in the first place, nicotine patches could also boost their chances of recovering from occasional lapses while trying to quit. Experts say most people trying to break the habit manage to do so at first, but are unable to sustain their quit attempt over the long run. "Patch can help overcome these lapses. We're ignoring what could be a very important benefit of treatment," Shiffman told *Reuters Health*. According to the American Lung Association, more than 443,000 Americans die from smoking-related diseases each year. Cigarette smoke contains thousands of chemicals, including tar, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde and toxins known to cause cancer.

Nicotine patches, usually applied on the arm, reduce withdrawal symptoms such as headache and nausea in those who give up smoking. They supply lower doses of nicotine than found in most cigarettes — without all the other extra chemicals. Other nicotine replacement therapies (NRTs) include over-the-counter gum and lozenges, prescription nasal sprays and inhalers and non-nicotine prescription drugs.— *Reuters*

A man holds a cigarette. INTERNET

Turmeric extract may protect heart after surgery

NEW YORK, 14 April—A new study from Thailand suggests that extracts from turmeric spice, known for their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, may help ward off heart attacks in people who've had recent bypass surgery. During bypass surgery the heart muscle can be damaged from prolonged lack of blood flow, increasing patients' risk of heart attack. The new findings suggest that curcumins — the yellow pigment in turmeric — may be able to ease those risks when added to traditional drug treatment.

But that conclusion is based on a relatively small group of subjects and needs to be confirmed in larger studies before all bypass patients rush out to get the extracts, researchers said. "It's very, very encouraging," said Bharat Aggarwal, who studies the use of curcumins in cancer therapy at the MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston, Texas. Aggarwal, who wasn't involved in the new study, said research has suggested inflammation plays an important role in the development of a range of diseases, including heart disease—and curcumins could have an effect on those pathways. But this is the first rigorous, controlled study to support that idea. Researchers led by Dr Wanwarang Wongcharoen from Chiang Mai University studied 121 consecutive patients who had non-emergency bypass surgery at their hospital between 2009 and 2011. Half of those patients were given one-gram curcumin capsules to take four times a day, starting three days before their surgery and continuing for five days afterward. The other half took the same number of drug-free placebo capsules. Neither study participants nor their doctors knew which heart patients were getting which pills, and surgeons decided on their own what technique they would use for each bypass procedure. The researchers found that during their post-bypass hospital stay, 13 percent of patients who'd been taking curcumins had a heart attack, compared to 30 percent in the placebo group.—*Internet*

Argentina's "Miracle Baby" takes turn for the worse

BUENOS AIRES, 14 April — A baby declared stillborn and then later found alive by her parents at a morgue in Argentina was in critical condition on Friday after taking a turn for the worse overnight, a hospital official said. Doctors told Analia Bouter that her baby was stillborn when she gave birth in Argentina's northern Chaco Province at the start of the month. But 12 hours after her birth, when Bouter and her husband pried open the wooden coffin inside the refrigerated morgue to see her one last time, they found the baby not only breathing but yawning and stretching her arms.

The couple named her Luz Milagros - her middle name meaning miracles in Spanish - because of her unlikely start to life. But the newborn gave her parents another scare late on Thursday when she stopped breathing and had to be revived by doctors. "She's an extremely premature baby, 13 days old and weighing 708 grams (1 pound, 5 ounces). She's in a critical state, quite a bit worse than yesterday and at risk of dying," said Diana Vesco, the head of infant care at the Perrando Hospital, where the baby was born.

"Yesterday she had an episode with a hemorrhage in the lungs, which required us to increase artificial respiration. Her heart and breathing stopped.—*Reuters*

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 11 April, 2012. — INTERNET

Wall Street ends worst two weeks since November

NEW YORK, 14 April — US stocks closed their worst two-week slide since November with a selloff on Friday as disappointing China growth data sparked worries the global recovery was flagging. Concerns that Europe's debt crisis was flaring up again added to selling pressure. Sectors taking the hardest hit were those most closely linked to growth, including materials, energy and financials. The S&P 500 is now down 3.4 percent from this year's closing high, after falling 2.7 percent over the past two weeks.

"Everyone is looking for global growth, but the slowing in China and the rising yields in Europe are creating questions about how strong we might expect it to be," said Brad Sorensen, director of market and sector analysis at Charles Schwab in Denver. "That's leading to a correction here, with financials especially taking a hit." The S&P financial sector index <.GSPF> fell 2.5 percent in Friday's session and lost 2.8 percent for the week. Bank of America Corp dropped 5.3 percent to $8.68. Morgan Stanley slumped 5.2 percent to $17.28.

The cost of insuring Spanish debt against default hit 500 basis points for the first time on fears about the high exposure of the country's banking sector to sovereign debt. Data showed that China's economy expanded 8.1 percent in the first quarter, a rate that was slower than expected and the country's weakest pace in nearly three years. The Dow Jones industrial average <.DJI> tumbled 136.99 points, or 1.05 percent, to 12,849.59 at the close. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index <.SPX> slid 17.31 points, or 1.25 percent, to 1,370.26. The Nasdaq Composite Index <.IXIC> dropped 44.22 points, or 1.45 percent, to 3,011.33.

The S&P 500 is still up 9 percent so far in 2012, but fell 2 percent over the week. The Dow lost 1.6 percent for the week and the Nasdaq dropped 2.2 percent. This week's losses came on top of the slide in the previous week, which was cut short a day for the Good Friday holiday. In that week, the Dow dropped 1.1 percent, while the S&P 500 slipped 0.7 percent and the Nasdaq shed 0.4 percent.— *Reuters*

Lockheed wins $259 million deal for two more US F-35s

WASHINGTON, 14 April—Lockheed Martin Corp on Friday won a $259 million contract adding two more *F-35* fighter jets to a fifth batch of jets being purchased by the US military, boosting the size of that order to 32 jets, the Pentagon and Lockheed officials said. Lockheed and the Pentagon are still negotiating the final terms of a fixed-price fifth production contract for the new radar-evading supersonic fighter jet, after reaching agreement in December on a $4 billion "undefinitized contract action" for 30 fighter jets.

Friday's deal, announced in the Pentagon's daily digest of major contracts, brings the size of the fifth order in line with the number funded in the Pentagon's fiscal 2011 budget. That fiscal year ended last September, but the negotiations got off to a late start. It adds one conventional takeoff aircraft to the 21 already planned for the Air Force as part of the fifth production contract, and one carrier variant to the six planned for the Navy. The Marine Corps' total remains at three for this order.

Lockheed is developing and building three variants of the new Joint Strike Fighter for the US military and eight countries that are helping to fund its development. The Pentagon told Congress last month that the projected cost to develop, build and operate and maintain 2,447 jets for 55 years would be $1.51 trillion, up 8.6 percent from the previous estimate.

Reuters

Business

China announces slight easing of currency controls

BEIJING, 14 April — China's central bank announced Saturday a slight easing of its controversial currency controls. It says it will allow the country's yuan to rise and fall by a slightly wider margin against the dollar in daily trading. The change could allow a faster rise for the yuan, which Washington and other trading partners complain is undervalued. But any increase will likely be too small to satisfy many critics and Beijing already has warned that future gains will be limited.

The central bank said it will allow the yuan to fluctuate by up to 1 percent in value against the dollar each day beginning Monday, up from 0.5 percent previously. The bank took the unusual step of issuing a statement in English as well as in Chinese, clearly intending it for foreign audiences. The United States and other governments say an undervalued yuan gives China's exporters an unfair price advantage, swelling its trade surplus and hurting foreign competitors at a time when other governments are struggling to lower unemployment. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, the country's top economic official, said in March the currency might already have reached an "equilibrium exchange rate," suggesting more gains would be limited.

Wen said the yuan already has gained 30 percent in value in real terms since 2005. That increase has failed to satisfy critics.

Internet

A bank clerk counts Chinese 100 Yuan notes in Shanghai. China's central bank announced on 14 April, 2012, a slight easing of its controversial currency controls. It says it will allow the country's yuan to rise and fall by a slightly wider margin against the dollar in daily trading. — INTERNET

Photos capturing scenes on Maha Thingyan Akyat Day

Kaba Aye Pagoda Road crammed full with revellers on Thingyan Akyat Day.
TIN SOE

Block between Merchant Street and Maha Bandoola Street filled up with revellers.
TIN SOE

Anawrahta Street teeming with merry-makers on Thingyan Akyat Day.—TIN SOE

Pandals along Maha Bandoola Street in Kyauktada Township packed with revellers on Thingyan Akyat Day.—TIN SOE

"We" of Child Star decorated float at Yangon Mayor's Pandal.
TIN SOE

Yangon City Electricity Supply Board Pandal packed with revellers.—MNA

Choral dancers perform Thingyan dances beside a decorated float.
TIN SOE

Revellers in Botahtaung Township on Thingyan Akyat Day.—TIN SOE

What we call it Thingyan: The big screen

Nathan

"Jaunty tune....drifting in the wind of summer's Tagu"

Yes. Thingyan melodies are everywhere. Plenty of lively Thingyan songs offer us a wide range of options. Rock or pop or rap? Any type of Thingyan song is at your fingertips. And there are also plenty of golden oldies still stealing our hearts. They survives not a year or two, but for decades.

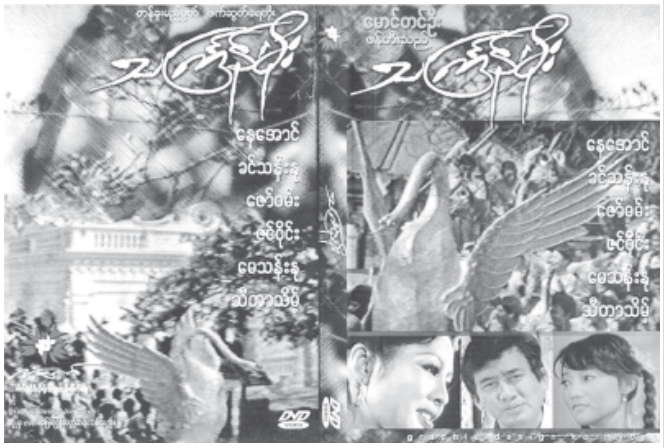
The catchy songs were once played by bands of decorated floats in Mandalay Thingyan. We cannot separate Thingyan and Mandalay as it is the cultural city and the capital of the last monarchy with fragrance of the ancient times still fresh. Also Mandalay Thingyan and the decorated floats are inseparable. As Thingyan festival was drawing nearer, traditional rivalry grew again among Mandalarians over whose decorated float would be the most beautiful one and which float's band would win rapturous applause of audience. Young men's bands composed new songs competitively to lure attention of the audience. Myoma was then a leading float and band. Myoma Nyein is doubtless the top songsmith. Myoma and its mascot Silver Swan passed into history. Fortunately, it is still alive and kicking as well.

There are many books, fiction or non-fiction, about Mandalay Thingyan. There area also many films depicting Mandalay Thingyan. Needless to say that Myoma is a must in each work. Among films portraying Thingyan, Thingyan Moe (Thingyan Rain) is a blockbuster. No Thingyan movie can equal the success of the award-winning musical till now. The film revolves around Mandalay Thingyan and Myoma. It follows a young man who plays keyboard for a band of a float with the love of music inherited from his farther, a pianist.

Maung Tin Oo, who is well known for a couple of blockbusters and award-winning works and succeeded in bringing Myanmar lifestyles to the silver screen, directed the film. It stars Nay Aung, Khin Than Nu, Zin Waing, May Than Nu, Zaw One and Thida Theint. Thingyan Moe won three Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards for 1985, including the best picture prize.

It tells the romantic love story of a young musician and a girl of the-cream-of-the-crop family. Despite the clichéd plot, audience found themselves sticking to each and every scene of the movie. They are attracted by breathtaking scenes of Mandalay, upbeat Thingyan music and stately traditional choral dances. The film itself explores neglected beauties around us, its scores tell how brotherly or sisterly love prevails in the celebrations and the traditional dances portray elegance.

A number of movies showing the Myanmar's significant festival hit the big screen these years. Almost all could not follow in the footsteps of Thingyan Moe while some even destroy the essence of the festival.



DVD cover of award-winning musical Thingyan Moe.—INTERNET

They show girls running on a beach with swimming suits and playing water in skintight dresses. They follow boys tailing a girl with one among them begging for her love. They use schoolboy humours. And they call it Thingyan movie.

The filmmakers may possibly argue, "That is what the age is." Movies have a strong impact on young watchers who later emulate what actors and actresses say, dress and behave in movies. And do films again show how these young people do?

Whatsoever, I am still hoping to see a new Thingyan film alike depicting how Myanmar Traditional Thingyan is lovely and elegant and conveys the pure essence on the big screen. Even if my wish is not to be fulfilled, Thingyan Moe will still make my Thingyan days in a series of years to come complete.

Kyaukdaga Township Association (Yangon) opens office

YANGON, 14 April—To be able to open the office of Kyaukdaga Township Association (Yangon), an apartment worth K 18 million was donated by Col Tin Shein (Rtd)-Daw Aye Mon Shein and family at 140 2A on the first floor on Padamya Road in Ward 3 of Kamayut Township in Yangon Region on 8 April morning.

The opening ceremony of the office was held at the apartment at 10 am.—*Myanma Alin*

TAXATION CLARIFIED: ***The clarification on taxation was held at Rakhine State Internal Revenue Department on 6 April. Director U Tun Nwe of Inspection and Legal Service Branch clarifies taxation.*—IRD**

Changes of taxation system clarified in Sagaing Region

SAGAING, 14 April—A ceremony to clarify matters related to law, rules, regulations and tax rate to be reformed as of 2012-2013 fiscal year was held at the hall of Sagaing Region Internal Revenue Department at 2 pm on 4 April.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye delivered an address.

Head of Sagaing Region Internal Revenue Department U Nyi Nyi Htin Paw explained tax reform to be undertaken in 2012-2013 fiscal year in detail.

A total of 31 Heads of district and township Internal Revenue Departments in Sagaing Region attended the clarification ceremony.

IRD

Loans disbursed to agriculture and livestock breeding entrepreneurs

MUSE, 14 April—Organized by Muse Township Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Committee of Muse District in Shan State (North), the private micro-credit institution development committee of Muse Township disbursed loans to the microfinance institutions of the township at the city hall in Muse of Shan State (North) on 23 March afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner U Moe Hein of Muse District General Administration Department and Head of District Internal Revenue Department U Than Win gave introductory speeches.

The district level officials then presented K 8.5 million to 35 entrepreneurs who are engaging in agriculture and livestock breeding farms in the township.—*Township IRD*

PHYSICAL CULTURE CONTESTS: ***Under the supervision of Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Body-building and Physical Culture Federation organized the concluding of the summer body-building and physical culture course on 8 April. Photo shows Nay Yi Win Le who secured the first prize in senior Miss Summer Contest.***
MBPCF

DISTRICT NEWS

MLF invites donations of cash, books

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

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

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win present cash awards to film stars who performed entertainments.—MNA

President U Thein Sein's wife Daw Khin Khin Win dousing those present with water at Maha Thingyan Pandal at Presidential Palace.—MNA

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win…

(from page 1)

Later, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, and Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin presented cash awards to the choral dancers and artistes who participated in performing the entertainments.—*MNA*

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin present cash awards to choral dance troupes who present entertainments.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon dousing those present with water at Maha Thingyan Pandal at Presidential Palace.—MNA

Chin State Chief Minister opens new earth roads, hostels

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April — As part of a programme for rural area development, poverty reduction and socio-economic development in Chin State, an earth road linking Mindat and Aukchaing was commissioned into service and two hostels in Aukchaing Village were opened on 8 April.

The road was formally opened by Chief Minister of Chin State U Hong Ngai and responsible personnel.

Afterwards, two hostels constructed with the contribution of Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun for Basic Education High School in Aukchaing Village was opened by Chin State Social Affairs Minister Dr Ba Maung and Head of Mindat Township Education Officer U Aung Kyaing.

At the meeting with local people at the sports ground in Aukchaing Village, State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai presented K500,000 to responsible personnel to be spend on regional development tasks.

The State Chief Minister also formally opened a road linking Ro, Lonkha and Tiddim on 10 April and presented K200,000 for regional development and K500,000 for the village of Ro to responsible personnel.

He held a meeting with departmental officials at Mindat District General Administration Department on 11 April and inspected No 1 BEHS and staff quarter of Mindat Township People's Hospital.

The State Chief Minister formally opened the two hostels donated by Union Minister U Win Tun for BEHS (branch) at Ranpan Village. He also donated K500,000 for the development of Ranpan Village to responsible personnel.—*MNA*

Mandalay Maha Thingyan continues on a grand scale

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April— Whilst Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival (Water Festival) continued to celebrate around the country overwhelmingly, Mandalay took part on the occasion on a grand scale.

In the morning, Mandaly Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe and the region ministers visited Thingyan water throwing pandals around the moats and then they participated on the occasion.

U Pein Bridge and Maezalpintan of Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura were packed with Thingyan revelers. People who kept Sabbath (keeping eight or nine precepts) were seen at religous edifices.

Thingyan water throwing pandals in Amarapura were full of Thingyan goers singing songs and playing dances and treated with Myanmar traditional snacks: Montloneyepaw (rice balls floating over water) and Satudisa.

In the evening, Thingyan dancers, film stars and singers in each and every Thingyan Pandal around moat entertained those Thingyan lovers with modern music and Thingyan music. At night, Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal hosted Thingyan decorated floats. *MNA*

Padonma Soap Family Thingyan Pandal in Mandalay packed with Thingyan revellers.—MNA

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister partakes in Maha Thingyan

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April— Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung together with the Deputy Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw, region ministers, region advocate-general, region auditor-general, secretary of the region government and officials concerned enjoyed entertainment of performers at Pathein University Thingyan water throwing Padal yesterday morning.

Afterwards, the Region Chief Minister presented prizes to the performers who did their best in entertaining at Public Works Pandal and Myanma Electric Power Supply Enterprise Thingyan Pandal in Ayeyawady Region.—*MNA*

NyaungU District Maha Thingyan Festival Central Pandal opened

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—Opening of NyaungU District Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival Central Pandal, took place at pandal on 12 April.

NyaungU District Deputy Commissioner U Tun Tun Win, Township Administrator U Thura Tun Lin and Township Development Affairs Committee Executive Officer U Myo Aung opened the pandal.

After that, music troupe and choral dancers entertained with Mantaungyeikkho song.

MNA

Diplomats of foreign embassies enjoying performance of choral dances of artistes at Hotel Golden Land in Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373 ME. **(News on page 16).**

MNA

***Kandawgyi ringroad being packed with revellers on Akyat Day of Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival for 1373 ME.*—MNA**

Thingyan festive spirits influence Maha Thingyan Akyat Day

YANGON, 14 April— Thingyan fan-seekers are still partaking today, the Akyat Day of 1373 ME Myanma Traditional Cultural Thingyan Festival.

Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal offered entertainments of choral dance troupes in the morning and afternoon, and at night, Anupyinnya Lwinpyin Anyeint performed entertainment to those present who were active with their partaking in the festival, including diplomats in foreign missions in Yangon.

In Ahlon Township, Ministry of Electric Power No 2 and Yangon City Electricity Supply Board performed the entertainment to the audiences at their pandals. Film stars and vocalists participated in the entertainments.

Similarly, Thingyan Pandals of Air Bagan, Alpine and Channel V on Pyay Road near Inya Lake bund in Yangon Region were full of Thingyan enthusiasts to whom entertainments of pop stars, film stars and choral dance troupes performed.

Likewise, city dwellers enjoyed Maha Thingyan Festival at water throwing pandals in respective townships. Merry-makers took relaxation at Yangon Zoological Gardens and various parks. In addition, people kept Sabbath and practised meditation at religious edifices.—*MNA*

Sabagyi Library put into service in Momauk Township

MOMAUK, 14 April—With the aim of broadening horizon of the local people and developing human resources, a ceremony to open Sabagyi Library was held in conjunction with the publications and cash donation at the pavilion near the library in Myohaung Village of Momauk Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State on 28 March.

The library was built at a cost of K 1 million contributed by the State and K 2,194,400 by the rural people. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Nyan Hlaing made a speech. Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Lun Nan Htwe explained the purpose of opening the library and important role for durability of the facility. After that, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and wellwishers donated books and furniture to the library through officials. Chairman of the library committee U San Haung spoke words of thanks. Later, Township Administrator U Nyan Hlaing, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Nun Nan Htwe, Minkyan Village-tract administrator U Soe Maung and Library Committee Chairman U San Haung cut the ribbon to open the library. It is 24 feet long, 16 feet wide and 15 feet high building.—*Township IPRD*

***Kabaaye Pagoda Road being packed with revellers on Akyat Day of Myanma Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival for 1373 ME.*—MNA**

Outstanding bus workers awarded in Yangon East District

YANGON, 14 April—Yangon East District All Private Bus-line Control Committee held the ceremony to present cash assistance for workers in 2011-2012 fiscal year and award outstanding bus line for work performance competition at the hall of Thingangyun Township General Administration Department on 7 April morning.

The Chairman of the Yangon Region supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transportation Yangon Region Minister for Transport delivered an address. Next, the chairman of All Private Bus-line Control Committee made a speech.

The chairman of Yangon East District All Private Bus-line Control Committee reported on provision of cash assistance for 2011-2012 fiscal year and awarding work performance.

After that, the Region Minister presented cash assistance to workers of respective branches. Officials also gave K 15850000 to prize winning vehicle owners, drivers and bus conductors from 15 bus lines of the district.

Myanma Alin

CASH DONATED: ***In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of graduation ceremony, officers of 4th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy donated K 1 million to the fund for patients at No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed) in PyinOoLwin recently. Commandant of the hospital Brig-Gen Soe Win accepts cash donation.*** —MNA

Communal ordination, novitiation held

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 14 April—Organized by Phayagyi Monastery Mahasi Meditation Centre of Mawlamyinegyun, the 35th Maha Satipathana 7-day medication camp was held in conjunction with the communal ordination and novitiation ceremony at the center in Mawlamyinegyun on 12 April afternoon.

At first, Township Administrator U Htay Maung, Chairman of the Monastery Board of Trustees Dr Hla Han and Chairman of Hitakari Women's Yogi Association Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Shwe Sein formally opened the ceremony.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavinansa (Dhammaçariya, Kammathanaçariya) will administere the Yogies in line with Maha Saripathana Sutta.

Altogether 250 Yogies joined the meditation centre. A total of 65 men were ordained and 17 boys novitiated at the ceremony.—*Myanma Alin*

UNIFORMS PROVIDED: ***A ceremony to present uniforms worth K 3 million to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society of Kyimyindine Township was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Kyimyindine Township on 6 April. Township Administrator U Kyaw Ye Thway presents a set of uniform to member of Auxiliary Fire Brigade.*** MYANMA ALIN

New library building put into service in Kangyidaunt

KANGYIDAUNT, 14 April—A ceremony to open Village-tract Administrative Office and Lin Yaung Chi Library was held in front of the building in Nanwin Gayat Village-tract in Kangyidaunt Township of Pathein District on 8 April.

At first, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Myo Hsaung, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Aung Kyaing and townselder U Nyein Aye cut the ribbon to open the buildings.

The books and publications donation ceremony followed at the library. The deputy head of Township General Administration Department made a speech. The head of Township Information and Public Relations Department explained durability of the library. Later, the chairman of the library committee accepted books and publications.

The library building is 50 feet long and 20 feet wide.—*Myanma Alin*

Citizenship cards issued in Taikkyi Township

DISTRICT NEWS

YANGON, 14 April—Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Myint Shwe made citizenship scrutiny cards and household registration in Gyobyu Village-tract in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region.

The official team issued citizenship scrutiny cards to 174 eligible people as part of efforts in implementing Moe Pwint-1 Plan.

Township Immigration

Women's vocational training courses conclude in Yinmabin

YINMABIN, 14 April—The advanced tailoring course No 15 and the basic domestic science course No 19 concluded at Women's Vocational Training School in Yinmabin on 23 March morning.

Sagaing Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Kyi Naing made a concluding remark.

The region minister then presented a set of sewing machine each to outstanding trainees.

Principal of the training school Daw Mya Mya Aye presented completion certificates to the trainees through a female trainee.

After the ceremony, the Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs viewed the graduation works of the trainees.

Vocational School

PRIZES AWARDED: ***The 9th Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival and fragrance grinding contest, organized by Rakhine Literature and Culture Association (Yangon), was held at Theinbyu Sports Ground in Yangon on 11 April. Officials award first prize winning Rakhine women's team (Myatpan Thazin).*** MYANMA ALIN

Reforms of tax collection system clarified in Mawlamyinegyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 14 April—Organized by Mawlamyinegyun Township Internal Revenue Department, the clarification on taxation was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 8 April morning.

It was attended by 33 departments and tax payer people.

At first, Township Administrator U Htay Maung made a speech. Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Aye Aye Maw explained issuance of notification on reforms of taxation for township level departments and tax payer people.

Later, the head of Township Internal Revenue Department replied to queries raised by those present.

Myanma Alin

Indonesia finds missing asylum seeker boat

JAKARTA, 14 April — Indonesian authorities said they had found a boat reported missing en route to Australia and that the dozens of asylum seekers it was carrying were believed to have fled. Authorities had been searching for the boat since the mostly Afghan asylum seekers on board made a distress call to Australia on Wednesday, saying they were in rough seas and their boat was sinking. Refugee advocates who said 60 asylum seekers were on board alerted Australian authorities, who passed on the information to Indonesian officials.

Indonesian authorities said they had located the missing vessel late on Friday on Lombok island, which lies just east of the popular resort island of Bali, although residents said they spotted the asylum seekers on Wednesday. "People in Lombok informed us that they saw the boat arrive on the shore on Wednesday, and that people came ashore and ran off," Nanang Sigit, a search and rescue official in West Nusa Tenggara province told *AFP*. "We were not alerted immediately, so we only found the boat Friday night. We're now working with police and are conducting a search on the island."

Ian Rintoul of Brisbane-based Refugee Action Network told *AFP* he believed the vessel was still out at sea as late as Friday, when he last spoke to the asylum seekers via mobile phone. "If they found a boat on the island Wednesday, then it's not the right boat," he said. "When I spoke to them last, I could hear the wind and water in the background. They said the boat had taken a lot of water." Indonesian officials said they were calling off the search for the vessel, apparently satisfied they had found the right boat.

Internet

Local residents view an abandoned boat, believed to have been used by Afghan asylum seekers, on the shores of Lombok island, located in eastern Indonesia early on 14 April. Indonesian authorities located the missing boat enroute to Australia and said that the dozens of asylum seekers it was carrying were believed to have fled. — INTERNET

Japan market watchdog recommends $2.5 million fine for Olympus

***A logo of Japan's Olympus Corp is pictured at the company headquarters in Tokyo on 3 April, 2012.* REUTERS**

TOKYO, 14 April— Japan's market watchdog on Friday recommended the Financial Services Agency (FSA) fine Olympus Corp <7733.T> about 200 million yen ($2.5 million) for false accounting in one of the country's biggest corporate scandals.

The recommendation, made by the Securities Exchange and Surveillance Commission (SESC), was expected as part of legal procedures and comes after prosecutors last month charged the company and six key figures in the $1.7 billion accounting fraud.

The SESC said that the medical equipment and camera maker made false regulatory filings from the financial year ended in March 2007 through the first quarter ended in June 2011 by booking bigger investment securities and goodwill assets than the actual amounts. The FSA will make the final decision on imposing the fine.

"We take the SESC's recommendation seriously," Olympus said in a statement.

Olympus restated its balance sheet in December after an external investigation panel revealed that the firm had hidden investment losses off its books for 13 years.

Olympus itself is suing for mismanagement five of its eight internal directors, including the current president, and shareholders are set to vote on a new board of directors proposed by the firm at an 20 April extraordinary shareholders' meeting. ($1 = 80.9000 Japanese yen).

Reuters

Health ministry releases regulation on serious mental illnesses

BEIJING, 14 April—China's Ministry of Health on Thursday released a modified regulation on the management of serious mental illnesses. Serious mental illnesses mainly include schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder and mental retardation, which may hamper patients' power to control their behaviors and could pose threats to individuals and public security, according to the regulation.

The regulation requires community managers and healthcare organs to immediately report those suspected of having a mental illness to public security departments. Public security personnel should send patients suspected of having a mental illness to designated local mental health institutions for diagnosis and inform the patients' families within 24 hours.

Those diagnosed with serious mental illnesses will be registered and receive regular, but random visits from qualified psychiatrists to check their mental condition and assess their recovery, said the regulation. According to statistics from the China Disease Prevention and Control Centre, China had more than 16 million patients with serious mental disorders by 2009. Mental and neurologic diseases consume 20 percent of the nation's expenditure on diseases.— *Xinhua*

Rhino death toll rises to 170 this year in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 14 April —The toll of the killed rhino has increased to 171 in South Africa in 2012, a government department said on Friday. In the midst of the increased anti-poaching effort, the rhinos killed in the country so far this year have reached an alarming figure, said Environmental Affairs department spokesman Albi Modise in a statement.

According to the new statistics, the northern province of Limpopo, the eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal and the central province of North West among nine provinces were prime destinations for illegal rhino poachers, with a total of 58 rhinos killed. The Kruger National Park was the main target for the poachers, resulting at a staggering total of 103 rhinos being killed, while the remaining 10 were poached elsewhere in the country, said the spokesman. In 2011, 448 rhinos were killed in South Africa, compared to 333 in 2010. If this trend of the rhino killing continues, the total number of the killed animals this year will be higher than last year, an expert said.

Conservationists warned the rhino in South Africa is facing their worst poaching crisis in decades. There is increased concern at the escalation of rhino poaching in South Africa, and the government is taking measures to protect the endangered rhino.

A joint force of the country's law enforcement agencies has been built in an effort to tackle the rising killings of the rhinos. Since January, more than 100 suspected poachers have been arrested. South Africa is home to the largest rhino population in the world with about 20,000, nearly 80 percent of the global figure.

Xinhua

Apple rejects e-book pricing collusion charge

NEW YORK, 14 April— Apple Inc has rejected the US Justice Department's allegations that it colluded with publishers over electronic book pricing, calling the charges "simply not true."

The US government had sued Apple and five publishers, saying they conspired to fix the prices of electronic books. It has reached a settlement with three of the publishers that could lead to cheaper e-books for consumers.

In an email to *Reuters*, Apple spokesman Tom Neumayr confirmed the company's position, which earlier appeared in a *Wall Street Journal* article.

"The launch of the iBookstore in 2010 fostered innovation and competition, breaking Amazon's monopolistic grip on the publishing industry," Apple spokeswoman Natalie Kerris told the Journal.

Kerris defended the current pricing structure as parallel to Apple's mobile software store.

"Just as we have allowed developers to set prices on the App Store, publishers set prices on the iBookstore," she told newspaper.—*Reuters*

***Customers visit the Apple Store in New York City's Grand Central Station on 25 January, 2012.*—REUTERS**

German court rules Apple's email push breaches Motorola patents

BERLIN, 14 April—A German court upheld on Friday an earlier ruling that Apple's MobileMe and iCloud, with email push notification feature, violated two Motorola patents, leading to an injunction banning Apple from offering such services in Germany. The Mannheim regional court ruled that Apple's iCloud and MobileMe services, which can automatically informs users about new emails on devices like iPhone and iPad, breached the patents held by Motorola Mobility, and Apple was responsible for damages, although the exact amount has not been specified.

The judge also determined that Apple was still not allowed to offer the email push services to iCloud and MobileMe users in Germany. The ruling marked another victory of Motorola in its patent row with Apple. In February, the Mannheim regional court granted Motorola an injunction that forced Apple to halt iCloud push services in Germany. Apple and Motorola have been embroiled in a series of patent battles across Europe.

While Motorola accused Apple of infringement on the 3G-related patents for its best-selling iPhone and 3G-based iPad, Apple, together with Microsoft, asked for an investigation on whether Motorola is abusing its market position on patents to block competitions and charging excessive licensing prices for its patents.

Internet

Russia to modernize its space industry

MOSCOW, 14 April— Russia will give priority to modernizing its space industry to protect its independence in space exploration, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Thursday. Russia would outline a long-term strategy of cosmodrome building, including modernizing the northern Plesetsk and Kazakhstan-located Baikonur cosmodromes, Putin told a conference in Moscow's Planetarium. "Only the existence of several cosmodromes guarantees Russia's full independence in space activities and enables us to use space technology efficiently," he said.

A new cosmodrome is being built at Vostochny in Amur region as the main launch center for commercial and international flights. It will eventually include two launch pads, a training centre and oxygen and hydrogen generation plants. "Building Vostochny cosmodrome will boost development of the entire Far East region and attract highly skilled human resources there," Putin said. The government allocated 30 billion rubles (1 billion US dollars) for the Vostochny construction out of 150 billion rubles (5 billion dollars) for the entire space sector in 2012, Putin said.—*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DONG JIANG VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DONG JIANG VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2012 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 INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 CMA CGM
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (301)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (301) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Brazil alarmed over rising obesity rate

SAO PAULO, 14 April — In Brazil, a country known for girls in mini-bikinis and where body-consciousness borders on obsession, nearly half the population is overweight, a study by the Ministry of Health released on Tuesday found. "There is a tendency toward increased weight and obesity in the country. It's time to reverse the trend to avoid becoming a country like the United States," said Health Minister Alexandre Padilha.

According to the study, the percentage of overweight people increased from 42.7% in 2006 to 48.5% in 2011 while the obesity rate increased from 11.4% to 15.8% in the same period. The highest rates for overweight were found among men 35 years old to 45 years old (63%) and women 45 years old to 54 years old (55.9%). The youngest group in the study were 18-to-24-year olds, where 30% of the men and 25% of the women were overweight. "Adopting public policies for children and adolescents is essential to prevent people from becoming obese," the health minister said.

He said a third of Brazilians consume either high fat foods or sugared soft drinks at least five times a week. The study showed nearly 40% of men and 22% of women exercise regularly. The study was based on 54,000 interviews of adults across Brazil from January to December 2011. The highest obesity rate was reported in Macapa at 21.4%, followed by Porto Alegre at 19.6%. Sao Paulo reported a 15.5% obesity rate while Rio de Janeiro came in at 16.5%.

Internet

A family enjoys Ipanema beach at sunset in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2011. In Brazil, a country known for girls in mini-bikinis and where body-consciousness borders on obsession, nearly half the population is overweight, a study by the Ministry of Health released on Tuesday found. INTERNET

A Korean Air Boeing 777 rests on the runway of a Canadian Forces base in Comox, British Columbia on 10 April, 2012. The plane, en route from Vancouver, British Columbia to Seoul, diverted to Comox on Vancouver Island under escort by two US fighter jets after the airline's US call centre received a call about a threat on board. —INTERNET

Swiss drug maker Roche sees Q1 sales stutter

GENEVA, 14 April — Swiss drug maker Roche Holding AG reported Thursday that group sales dipped one percent to 11.03 billion Swiss francs ($12.05 billion) in the first quarter, while hinting that it might be prepared to raise its offer for US diagnostics firm Illumina Inc. Excluding the effect of the strong Swiss currency, group sales rose two percent compared to the same period last year. Analysts had expected slightly higher sales of around 11.58 billion francs.

"We remain on track to achieve our targets for the full year," Roche chief executive Severin Schwan said in a statement citing forthcoming new drugs to combat skin cancer and other diseases.

Sales in the United States grew six percent in the first quarter, led by hepatitis C medicine Pegasys and cancer drug Rituxan — known as MabThera outside the US and Canada. Sales in Western Europe fell four percent partly due to cutbacks in government-funded health programmes. Roche, which reports earnings only every six months, said group sales are expected to grow at low to mid-single-digit rates for the full year 2012. Addressing the months long effort to take over California-based Illumina, which specializes in gene sequencing to analyze patients' DNA, the Roche CEO indicated that a higher bid might still be possible. Last month, Roche raised its offer to $51 cash per share from $44.50 per share, said by Illumina to be too low.

Internet

India to drop 'Terry' pic from cigarette warnings

LONDON, 14 April—An Indian health warning on cigarette packets that uses an apparent picture of England footballer John Terry with a set of blackened lungs is to be withdrawn, officials said on Wednesday.

Terry's London-based lawyers had threatened to sue over the blurry photograph featuring the head and shoulders of a man closely resembling the former England captain and current skipper of Premier League side Chelsea.

"Some people raised objections to the picture. We have asked the directorate of advertisement and visual publicity to provide new pictures, which they have done," a health ministry official told *AFP*.

The ministry has continued to deny the picture was of Terry, but it is distinctly similar to an image of him available on the Internet.

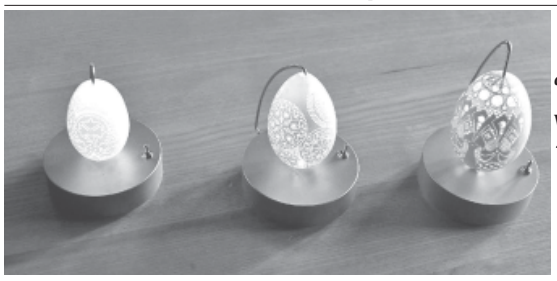
"Though the controversy is a part of the reason for withdrawing it, the present tobacco control dispensation is also not very happy with the quality of this image as a warning," one official told the *Indian Express* newspaper.

"The picture could be of any man. It is only the fertile imagination of some who see Terry in it. However, the controversy has been an unseemly one and so we are looking at a fresh set of warnings." The image of a shirtless man appeared on many brands of cigarettes in India and became a talking point among football fans and tourists from England who took to Twitter to say they instantly recognized Terry.

Each packet, which normally costs about 100 rupees ($2) in India, shows the man's blackened lungs emphasized by a red circle above a slogan in English reading "Smoking Kills".

After the picture first appeared on cigarette packets in December, Terry's management told *AFP* that his lawyers were considering legal action. They also stressed that Terry, who has hit the headlines in the past over drinking binges, was a non-smoker.—*Internet*

A wounded Afghan man is carried inside a vehicle at the site of a suicide bombing in Herat Province, west of Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 10 April, 2012. At least 12 people, including two suicide bombers, were killed and 30 others injured Tuesday morning when a suicide car bomb went off in Guzara District of Herat Province, provincial police chief said. —XINHUA



Three drilled eggshells by Franc Grom are seen at his home in Vrhnika, some 23 kilometers from Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 12 April , 2011. INTERNET

Man on Honolulu-bound flight from Japan dies

HONOLULU, 14 April — Delta Air Lines Inc says a passenger on one of its Honolulu-bound flights from Japan has died. Delta spokeswoman Gina Laughlin says Flight 612 from Nagoya was about two hours from Honolulu when the man began experiencing some kind of medical emergency. She says flight attendants and nurses performed CPR but the passenger was unresponsive.

Paramedics met the flight when it landed Monday morning and took the man to a hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Laughlin says passenger privacy prevents the airline from revealing details about the man. She says given the plane's location, going on to Hawaii was the shortest and only available option.

Internet

Resident Evil 6 premium edition comes with a leather jacket in Japan

This video game will cost you $1,300

Special editions of video games have been serious business in Japan for decades, often coming with soundtracks, art books, models, and other unique collectibles, and sometimes selling for hundreds of dollars. For its latest Resident Evil game, Capcom has put together a "premium edition" costing a whopping $1,300. For that price, you'd expect it to come with a game console to play it on, but instead you'll get… a jacket.

Releasing in Japan on 4 October, the Resident Evil 6 (called Biohazard 6 there) premium edition includes a leather jacket based on the one worn by series protagonist and snazzy dresser Leon S Kennedy. Also included are tablet covers featuring artwork of the game's three male leads — Leon, Chris, and Jake — plus a fourth "secret" design. The premium edition also includes the game, of course, which can be purchased separately along with a single tablet cover for a more reasonable $99.

Meanwhile, stores in the US will be offering downloadable multiplayer levels for those who pre-order the game. It's scheduled for North American release on 2 October for PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360.

Ohio man charged after six puppies found in suitcase

An Ohio man has been charged with animal abandonment after a litter of six English bulldog puppies was found in a suitcase with a tag bearing his name, according to Humane Society authorities.

Cyndi Condit, spokeswoman for the Toledo Area Humane Society told *Reuters* Wednesday that the man, identified as Howard Davis of Toledo, lived only two blocks from where the suitcase was found. The mother of the puppies was found pacing around the suitcase, which attracted the attention of a passerby.

"Howard's name was on the tag of the suitcase and the mother was licensed to him," Condit said.

After the dogs were found 4 April in a Toledo alley, Davis was charged with a second degree misdemeanor, which carries with it a maximum $750 fine and 90 days in jail, according to John Dinon, the Toledo Area Humane Society's executive director.

Davis told investigators that he had given the dogs to a friend in Michigan and that the suitcase had in fact been stolen earlier. There was no explanation as to how the adopted dogs got back from Michigan in the stolen suitcase.

The puppies, three male and three female, are estimated to be four weeks old, too young to be separated from their mother, so they will spend at least another four weeks in foster care before they are eligible for adoption.

Dinon said the shelter has received an overwhelming number of calls about adopting the puppies but that for now they are "evidence" in the case against Davis.

English Bulldog puppies play at the Toledo Area Humane Society in Maumee, Ohio in this 11 April, 2012 handout photograph.

Girl, 4, has IQ of 159

International high-IQ society Mensa said it has accepted a 4-year-old British girl whose IQ is only 1 point less than that of physicist Stephen Hawking. John Stevenage, chief executive of British Mensa, said the organization was proud to welcome Heidi Hankins of Winchester, England, into its ranks after she scored a 159 on an IQ test, putting her just 1 point behind fellow Mensa member Hawking's 160 IQ, *The Sun* reported Thursday.

Matthew Hankins, 46, the girl's father, said he and his wife knew early on that their daughter was special.

"We always thought Heidi was bright because she was reading early," Hankins said. "I was curious about her IQ and the results were off the scale. I got her the complete set of the Oxford Reading Tree books when she was 2 and she read through the whole set of 30 in about an hour.

News Album

War Horse' tops DVD sales chart

LOS ANGELES, 14 April— Steven Spielberg's World War I epic "War Horse" is the top-selling DVD and Blu-ray in the United States, Rentrak reported Thursday.

Coming in at No 2 on the DVD and Blu-ray sales roster for the week ending 8 April is "Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked," followed by "Hop" at No 3, "We Bought a Zoo" at No 4 and "The Muppets" at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" at No 6, "Game of Thrones: The Complete First Season" at No 7, "The Adventures of Tintin" at No 8, "Happy Feet Two" at No 9 and "Puss in Boots" at No 10.

The No 1 DVD rental for the week ended 7 April is "We Bought a Zoo."

"War Horse" is No 2, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" is No 3, "The Sitter" is No 4, "Hop" is No 5, "The Descendants" is No 6, "Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked" is No 7, "Immortals" is No 8, "Jack and Jill" is No 9 and "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" is No 10.

Internet

Steven Spielberg arrives for the French premiere of the film "War Horse" in Paris on 9 January , 2012. **INTERNET**

Anthony files for divorce from Lopez

LOS ANGELES, 14 April— Singer Marc Anthony has filed for divorce from "American Idol" judge Jennifer Lopez in Los Angeles Superior Court, documents show.

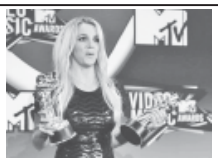
The couple wed in 2004 and are the parents of 4-year-old twins, a son and daughter.

Anthony and Lopez announced their separation last July and each has moved on since with a new relationship.

TMZ said Wednesday Anthony is asking for joint legal and physical custody of their children and requesting each party pay his or her own legal fees.

Internet

Singer and actress Jennifer Lopez and her husband, singer Marc Anthony.— **INTERNET**



Brittany Spears appears back stage at the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on 28 August, 2011. She was awarded the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award.— **INTERNET**

Denise Richards to appear on Charlie Sheen's show

LOS ANGELES, 14 April— Following Charlie Sheen's announcement that his real-life dad, Martin Sheen, will play his dad on "Anger Management," the actor is making his new FX comedy even more of a family affair: Sheen's ex-wife, Denise Richards, will guest star in an episode of the show. FX confirms to TheWrap that Richards will guest star on the series, which is set to premiere on the network on 28 June. Richards will play Lori, a new business partner for Sheen's on-screen ex, played by Shawnee Smith, TVLine.com reports.

"Anger," loosely based on the movie comedy of the same title, will star Sheen as Charlie Goodson, a former pro baseball player who deals with his own anger issues by becoming an anger management therapist once his sports career ends.—*Reuters*

Spears could get $15M as 'X Factor' judge

LOS ANGELES, 14 April —Pop star Britney Spears is close to signing a $15 million deal to be a judge on the US version of "The X Factor," multiple sources told *E! News.* Spears' representatives have been negotiating with Fox for weeks, a report said Wednesday.

"Both camps were back and forth on the money but now they have finally come to agreement on the fee," said one insider with intimate knowledge of the pending deal. "That was the big sticking point and now, thankfully, it's been sorted. All they need to do now is work out the smaller points. The fact the money is now set, means that there is nothing stopping this from becoming a reality."

Spears' fiance, Jason Trawick, who is also petitioning to become co-conservator of her estate with her father, will become a producer on the show, a second source said.

"Jason is expected to be there every day Britney is on set. He is her rock and will help guide her through the process. He is the person she trusts the most," the second source told *E! News.* The deal would make Spears the highest paid judge on reality television, eclipsing singer-actress Jennifer Lopez's $12 million deal with "American Idol." Spears, 30, is expected to start her new role on the "X Factor" judges' panel, alongside LA. Reid and Simon Cowell, in the middle of May, *E! News* said.–*Internet*

Gilbert returns for 'Dancing' rehearsal

Bruce Boxleitner, a cast member in the motion picture sci-fi thriller "TRON: Legacy", attends the world premiere of the film with his wife, actress Melissa Gilbert.— **INTERNET**

LOS ANGELES, 14 April— "Dancing with the Stars" contestant Melissa Gilbert says she has had her first "gentle rehearsal" since suffering a concussion and whiplash in Los Angeles.

Gilbert, 47, banged her head while competing Monday night. She was briefly hospitalized and missed Tuesday's results show. Going to attempt a gentle rehearsal in a bit," she said via Twitter Wednesday.

She later reported she was "very happy" to be back to work with her professional dance partner Maksim Chmerkovskiy.

"Now back home to bed," she tweeted.

Chmerkovskiy told People.com he is "pretty sure" Gilbert will compete again on the show. "I think we are coming back," Chmerkovskiy said. "I'm pretty sure. It's not up to me, it's up to her, [but] I haven't heard talks of not coming back. Although, if she wakes up tomorrow and continues to have a headache, I won't let her in the studio."

Gilbert is best known for her work on the 19th century-set drama series "Little House on the Prairie."

Internet

Peppers, Black Keys set for Lollapalooza

CHICAGO, 14 April—The Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Black Keys, Black Sabbath and Jack White have been booked for this summer's Lollapalooza festival in Chicago.

Also on the bill for the 3-5 Aug event in Grant Park are Florence + the Machine, The Shins, Wale, Kaskade, Fun, Of Monsters and Men, and dozens of other music acts, the festival's Web site said.

Tickets are on sale now.

Internet

Flea performs with the Red Hot Chili Peppers in concert, at the BankAtlantic Centre in Sunrise, Florida on 2 April, 2012.— **INTERNET**

Ronaldo eyes finishing line in La Liga title chase

***Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (R), seen here during their Spanish La Liga match against Atletico Madrid at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid, on 11 April. Ronaldo scored his seventh hat-trick of the season as Real beat their neighbours 4-1, to restore their four-point lead at the top of the table.—*INTERNET**

MADRID, 14 April— Cristiano Ronaldo feels that Liga leaders Real Madrid are now closing in on the title as they prepare to face struggling Sporting Gijon at the Santiago Bernabeu this weekend.

The Portuguese star scored his seventh hat-trick of the season as Real beat neighbours Atletico 4-1 on Wednesday to restore their four-point lead at the top of the table.

The pressure had been growing on Jose Mourinho's team as their lead - which sat at 10 points in mid-March - was whittled down to one in the wake of Barcelona's 4-0 victory over Getafe on Tuesday.

But, after some tense moments with the score tied at 1-1 at the Vicente Calderon, Ronaldo made the difference before substitute Jose Callejon got the other goal.

"Still there is a little way to go but the league is near now. We were anxious going into the game as we knew that Barca had won but now we are relaxed," said Ronaldo, who has already equalled his record-breaking tally of 40 league goals, set last season.

That figure leaves him one ahead of Barcelona's Lionel Messi, although the Argentine has the most in all competitions with 61.

"Losing is not a word in my vocabulary. We knew it would be a difficult game against Atletico and they played very well so I am happy with the result. I am not looking for personal records but titles for Real Madrid and I have to thank my teammates because without them I would not have scored," added Ronaldo. April is a crunch month for Madrid and will go a long way to deciding their destiny in the title race.

Having taken four points from two league games against Valencia and Atletico, they still have a tough Champions League semi-final tie with Bayern Munich to come either side of their trip to the Camp Nou to face Barca in El Clasico.—*Internet*

Wozniacki reaches Copenhagen WTA semi-finals

COPENHAGEN, 14 April—Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki advanced to the semifinals of the Copenhagen WTA tournament after beating Alice Cornet of France 6-0, 6-3 in the quarterfinals here on Friday.

The first set was over in 26 minutes and things did not change much in the second set. However, Cornet challenged the current

***Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark controls a ball during play against Pauline Parmentier of France in their WTA Danish Open women's tennis match in Farum, north of Copenhagen, on 12 April, 2012.—*XINHUA**

Top-seed Wozniacki showed her strength and forced her opponent in the defensive without ever leaving Cornet any real chance to get into the fight from the beginning of the match, held at the Farum Arena, in Copenhagen, capital of Denmark.

number six in the world in several well played duels but could not prevent Wozniacki winning 6-3.

It was a little more difficult for No 3 seed Jelana Jancovic of Serbia in her fight against Estonia's Kaia Kanepi. Jankovic lost the first set 4-6 but came back and won the next two sets 6-1, 6-3. No 2 seed Angelique Kerber of Germany had even greater difficulties in the fight against her compatriot Mona Barthel.

After winning the first set 6-2, Kerber lost the second set 6-0, but fought her way back in the third set 7-5.

Xinhua

Bayern can shock Real, insists Beckenbauer

MUNICH, 14 April— German football legend Franz Beckenbauer says Bayern Munich can beat Real Madrid in Tuesday's Champions League semi-final first leg, if they learn from their mid-week German league defeat at Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern lost 1-0 at the league leaders on Wednesday, with Dutch star Arjen Robben seeing a late penalty saved, and the defeat leaves second-placed Munich six points behind with four games left in the Bundesliga.

***German football legend Franz Beckenbauer, pictured in February 2012, says Bayern Munich can beat Real Madrid in Tuesday's Champions League semi-final first leg, if they learn from their mid-week German league defeat at Borussia Dortmund.—*INTERNET**

Real Madrid now stand between Bayern and a place in the Champions League final at Munich's Allianz Arena on 19 May and Beckenbauer says the hosts should aim for victory at home in Tuesday's first leg.

"If they produce the same performance they showed in the second half (at Dortmund), then they certainly have a chance to turn over Madrid," said ex-Bayern president Beckenbauer, who captained and coached West Germany to World Cup titles.

History favours the Bavarians as Madrid have lost 10 of their 18 matches against Bayern and in four previous ties between the teams at this stage, the Germans have gone on to reach the final on three occasions. Defeat in mid-week has left Bayern facing an uphill task in the league, but they remain in contention for two other titles, with a German Cup final against Dortmund coming up on 19 May .—*Internet*

Unbeaten Mares hopes to end Morel comeback bid

***Eric Morel has adopted a now or never attitude in his bid to become a world champion for the first time in more than eight years. Unbeaten Abner Mares, pictured here in 2009, wants to make sure it's never.—*INTERNET**

EL PASO (Texas), 14 April—Eric Morel has adopted a now or never attitude in his bid to become a world champion for the first time in more than eight years. Unbeaten Abner Mares wants to make sure it's never. The two former world champions meet on 21 April at El Paso, Texas, for the World Boxing Council super bantamweight crown vacated by Japan's Toshiaki Nishioka after he could not get a fight with Filipino star Nonito Donaire. "If he wants to come back and try to win back the title, I'm ready to fight him," Mares said.

Puerto Rico's Morel, 46-2 with 23 knockouts, has won 11 fights in a row since losing to Martin Castillo of Mexico for the World Boxing Association super flyweight title in 2005 after losing the same title in 2003. At 36, Morel knows he cannot afford another setback in his bid to return to the world throne. "My preparation for this fight has been the best. Basically this is it," he said. "It's do or die for me.

"I guarantee you age is not catching up with me — 36 is nothing but a number. I'm in great shape. My feet are still there. My speed is just tremendous. I still have great power. I feel like nothing is going to stop me." Mexico's Mares, 26, has yet to be stopped himself at 23-0 with one drawn and 13 knockouts. "I can't wait to become a world champion in my second weight class," Mares said. "I'm not training any different because he's 36. I'm not looking at numbers. It's another opponent, another fight, and I have to train my best. "I expect a tough fight. I know what I'm getting myself into. It's a big step-up fight for him. He's basically trying to make a comeback. He's going to fight hard. But I train hard too and I'm ready for him." Panama's Anselmo Moreno, 32-2 with one drawn and 11 knockouts, will defend his WBA bantamweight crown against Mexico's David de la Mora, 24-1 with 17 knockouts, on the same card. Southpaw Moreno, who has won 26 fights in a row over the past 9 1/2 years, will make his 10th defence of the crown he won in 2008.—*Internet*

Forlan determined to prove he fits at Inter Milan

MILAN, 14 April— Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan wants to stay at Inter Milan and prove he belongs at San Siro despite a frustrating first season.

"I want to stay at Inter. You haven't seen the real Forlan yet," the 32-year-old told Sky Sports.

"I wouldn't want to leave Inter like this. I like challenges and I wouldn't want to leave when the team are not in a good position."

Inter are currently six points off third place in Serie A, the final qualifying spot for the Champions League, after a disappointing campaign in which Forlan has struggled.

The player of the tournament at the 2010 World Cup, where Uruguay reached the semi-finals, Forlan missed four months through injury and has often been jeered by the Inter fans when he has played.

"I have had difficult moments like this in my career," he said.

"I need to work hard to change things."—*Internet*

***Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan, pictured in 2011, wants to stay at Inter Milan and prove he belongs at San Siro despite a frustrating first season.—*INTERNET**

Knost seizes PGA Heritage lead

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, 14 April—Colt Knost, an American who began his US PGA career in 2007 yet managed his first top-10 finish just seven weeks ago, is the unlikely leader of the Heritage Classic.

***Colt Knost putts for birdie on the 11th hole during the second round of the Heritage Classic in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.—*INTERNET**

The 26-year-old Texan fired a bogey-free five-under par 66 on Friday to stand on nine-under 133 after two rounds, two strokes ahead of Sweden's Carl Pettersson at the $5.7 million event. Knost, who shared third at the Mayakoba Classic in Mexico in February for the best showing of his PGA career, ranks 93rd on the money list with just over $300,000 but would win $1.026 million if he holds the lead for 36 more holes. "It has been a really solid two days for me," Knost said. "Very pleased with how I'm playing right now, striking it well, and making a few putts. I'm looking forward to the weekend."

Knost began off the 10th tee at Harbour Town and birdied the par-4 13th and par-3 17th, then began his second nine with birdies at the par-4 first and par-5 second and added another at the par-5 fifth hole. Knost jumped into the PGA crucible after two quick wins on the developmental tour but struggled to take the next step.

Internet

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-4-12 09:30 am ~ 16-4-12 09:30 am) MST

- News
- Mon Traditional Thingyan Rice
- Thingyan Songs & Dances
- News
- From " Putao " to " Machan Baw "
- News
- Thingyan Songs and Dances
- News
- Current Trends in Cardiology Skill in Cardiac Practice
- News
- MI People's Celebrities (ajywDOD;)
- News
- Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
- News
- Ponnya Rama Mogok Vipassana Meditation Monastery
- News
- Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Aloe vera)
- Myanmar Movie "Kyar Phu"

MYANMAR TV

(15-4-2012) (Sunday)

7:00 am
1. Metta Bhavana By Mingun Sayadaw

7:40 am
2. Nice and Sweet Song

8:20 am
3. Thin Gyan Decades Ago

11:00 am
4. Martial Song

11:30 am
5. How It's Works

11:50 am
6. Myanmar Movies

2:25 pm
7. Dance Of Thin Gyan Festival

4:05 pm
7. Song Of National Races

4:05 pm
8. Dance Of National Races

4:50 pm
9. Dance Of Thin Gyan Festival

8:00 pm
10. News
11. Dance Of Thin Gyan Festival
12. Myanma Traditional Thin Gyan Festival
13. Myanmar Video Feature

Measles vaccination given in Nagmon Township

NAGMON, 14 April—The age-wise measles vaccination was launched at the meeting hall of Township General Administration Department in Nagmon of Putao District in Kachin State on 22 March morning.

At first, Township Administrator U Myo Min Aung made a speech.

Township Medical Officer Dr U Kan Kyaw Soe explained matters related to measles vaccination.

The plan of age-wise measles vaccination was implemented in Nagmon Township and Pannandin Sub-Township simultaneously.—*Health*

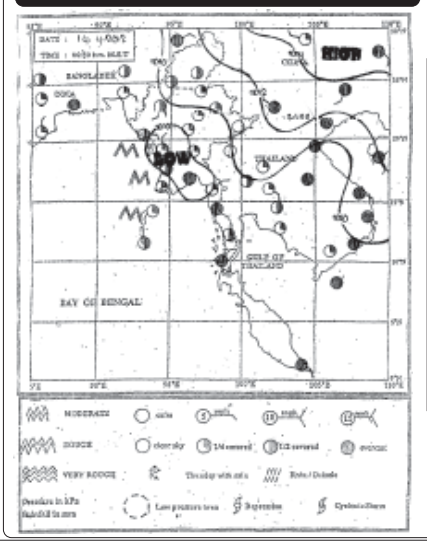
THINGYAN PANDAL OPENED*: The Maha Thingyan Pandal of Yangon East District in Yangon Region was opened at the water throwing and entertainment pandal at Monument Junction on Ayeyawun Road in Thakayta Township on 12 April. An official present gifts to film actress Sithu Daw Nwe Nwe San, on behalf of film mom group that performed entertainment at the pandal.*

MYANMA ALIN

Saturday's EPL Results

Norwich	**1-6**	**Man City**
Sunderland	**0-0**	**Wolves**
Swansea	**3-0**	**Blackburn**
West Brom	**1-0**	**QPR**

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 15th April, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F) Maximum	Minimum	For Tomorrow Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	34/93	20/68	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	35/95	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
3	Kayin	38/100	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chin	20/68	12/54	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	27/81	19/66	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	38/100	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	38/100	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
9	Magway	40/104	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	38/100	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	38/100	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	40/104	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
13	Rakhine	34/93	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	31/88	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	34/93	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	37/99	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	37/99	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	41/106	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	40/104	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	38/100	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Tanintharyi Region, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Rakhine State and isolated in Magway Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and weather has been partly cloudy in remaining Region and stage. Day temperature were (3°C) above April average temperatures in Southern Shan State, (4°C) below April average temperatures in Sagaing Region and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Bawlakhe (42°C) and Minbu (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukaw (1.38) inches and Kawthong (0.78) inch.
Bay Inference	Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for sub-sequent two days	Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Tevez hat-trick & Aguero double fires visitors to within two points of United in title race

Carlos Tevez scores his third and Manchester City's fifth

LONDON, 14 April— Carlos Tevez's hat-trick helped Manchester City beat Norwich to reduce Manchester United's lead to two points at the Premier League summit. United play Aston Villa on Sunday, but Tevez's swerving effort beat John Ruddy before he set up Sergio Aguero.

Norwich replied when Andrew Surman blasted in after Joe Hart's punch.

But Tevez boosted the lead with a header and Aguero's solo effort added the gloss before Tevez rounded Ruddy and Adam Johnson tapped in.

Sergio Aguero scored two goals for Manchester City in their win at Norwich

The Argentine celebrated his trio of goals with a golf swing, perhaps mocking those who questioned his desire during his leave of absence where he was pictured on the golf course in his home country.

But after a fractious period in his Manchester City career, his performance and the result showed that his team's title ambitions were back on track.

Despite boss Roberto Mancini's claims that his team had no chance of overtaking Sir Alex Ferguson's team, his once again fluent side showed they have not given up.

Aguero, who was also a menace, and scored two fine goals, came inches away from matching his countryman when he hit the post late on.

Internet

NLM-ner Joke

There are no dogs allowed here

A man goes to a bar with his dog. He goes up to the bar and asks for a drink. The bartender says "You can't bring that dog in here!" The guy, without missing a beat, says "This is my seeing-eye dog." "Oh man, " the bartender says, "I'm sorry, here, the first one's on me." The man takes his drink and goes to a table near the door.

Another guy walks in the bar with a Chihuahua. The first guys sees him, stops him and says "You can't bring that dog in here unless you tell him it's a seeing-eye dog." The second man graciously thanks the first man and continues to the bar. He asks for a drink. The bartender says "Hey, you can't bring that dog in here!"

The second man replies "This is my seeing-eye dog." The bartender says, "No, I don't think so. They do not have Chiwauas as seeing-eye dogs." The man pauses for a half-second and replies "What?!?! They gave me a Chihuahua?!?"

He has two girlfriends

There was this guy and he had a girlfriend called Lorraine who was very pretty and he liked her a lot.

One day he went to work to find that a new girl had started. Her name was Clearly and she was absolutely gorgeous. He became quite besotted with her and after a while it became obvious that she was interested in him too.

But this guy was a loyal man and he wouldn't get involved with Clearly while he was still going out with Lorraine.

He decided that there was nothing for it but to break up with her and get it on with the new girl.

He planned several times to tell Lorraine but he couldn't bring himself to do it. One day they went for a walk along the river bank when Lorraine slipped and fell in to the river. The current carried her off and she drowned. The guy stopped for a moment by the river and then ran off smiling and singing: *"I can see Clearly now Lorraine has gone"*

Swansea 3 - 0 Blackburn

LONDON, 14 April—Blackburn's survival hopes took a massive nosedive with a comprehensive defeat at the hands of classy Swansea.

Gylfi Sigurdsson opened the scoring for the home side, curling in a delightful left-footed effort.

Scott Sinclair pounced on a Scott Dann error to supply Danny Graham who teed up Nathan Dyer for the second.

David Dunn spurned chances for Rovers but their fate was sealed when Dann knocked it into his own net after Sigurdsson had struck the post.—*Internet*

Diplomats participate in Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival held for third time in Nay Pyi Taw was packed with revellers on Thingyan Akyat Day today.

Diplomatic corps led by Director-General U Aye Thaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Hotel Golden Land Pandal this morning where they enjoyed traditional foods and Thingyan songs and dances.

The diplomats, officials of the pandal and artistes played water happily.

They then proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw FC Pandal where they enjoyed choral dances and songs.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife and party welcomed the diplomatic corps led by Dean of the Corps Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua and wife with scented water at Max Myanmar Group of Companies Pandal where they played water happily.

They enjoyed Thingyan songs and dances at Golden Guest Hotel and Shwe Than Lwin Co Pandal and Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Pandal.

Union Ministers at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt and U Soe Maung, deputy ministers and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council played water with the diplomatic corps headed by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin. The diplomatic corps enjoyed choral dances of artistes from the Ministry of Culture.—*MNA*

Diplomats participate in Maha Thingyan water festival at Nay Pyi Taw FC pandal along with artistes.
MNA

Pandals in Hotel zone on Nay Pyi Taw Raza Thingaha Road being packed with revellers on the Akyat Day of Maha Thingyan in Nay Pyi Taw.
MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan filled with lively entertainment

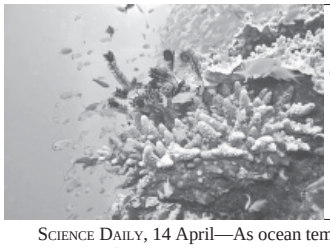
NAY PYI TAW, 14 April— Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Pandals have been still active since Maha Thingyan Akyo Day. Also today Maha Thingyan Akyat Day, revellers packed the Hotel Zone pandals on Nay Pyi Taw Raza Thingaha Road, enjoying lively performances of Myanmar famous pop stars and film stars and free snacks offered by merit-makers.

National Landmark Garden (Nay Pyi Taw), Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, Safari Park were full of Thingyan fans getting relaxation in the afternoon.

Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal was alive with performances of choral dance troupes, pop stars, film stars and revellers.

Likewise, Ottarathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Pobbathiri, Pyinmana, Tatkon, Lewe Townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area saw the pandals packed with Thingyan fans.—*MNA*

Under climate change, winners and losers on the coral reef



Coral on the Great Barrier Reef, Australia.
INTERNET

SCIENCE DAILY, 14 April—As ocean temperatures rise, some species of corals are likely to succeed at the expense of others, according to a report published online on April 12 in the Cell Press journal *Current Biology* that details the first large-scale investigation of climate effects on corals.

"The good news is that, rather than experiencing wholesale destruction, many coral reefs will survive climate change by changing the mix of coral species as the ocean warms and becomes more acidic," said Terry Hughes of James Cook University in Australia. "That's important for people who rely on the rich and beautiful coral reefs of today for food, tourism, and other livelihoods."

In an attempt to understand the sorts of changes that may take place as the world's oceans warm, the researchers examined the coral composition of reefs along the entire length of Australia's Great Barrier Reef.—*Internet*

Late Carroll header completes turnaround as Reds secure FA Cup final spot

LONDON, 14 April— Andy Carroll scored a dramatic late winner as Liverpool came from behind to defeat Merseyside rivals Everton 2-1 to reach the FA Cup final at Wembley here on Saturday.

Carroll — the club's much-maligned £35 million record signing — glanced in a Craig Bellamy free-kick in the 87th minute to keep Liverpool on course for a domestic cup double.

It was the second time in five days that Carroll had come to Liverpool's rescue after scoring an injury-time winner in the Premier League victory over Blackburn in midweek.

Andy Carroll's late header sent Liverpool through to the FA Cup final as they came from behind to beat Everton at Wembley.—INTERNET

More importantly the goal ensured Liverpool have the opportunity to finish a disappointing season on a high in next month's final where they will face the winner of Sunday's last-four clash between Tottenham and Chelsea. Carroll's decisive strike came after Liverpool had fought back to level through Luis Suarez on 62 minutes following Nikica Jelavic's opener for Everton.

Liverpool had started well, with Glen Johnson surging forward menacingly after only three minutes to release Carroll.

The pony-tailed striker cut back deftly to Jay Spearing but the young midfielder should have done better than a shot which flew harmlessly over. Liverpool chances thereafter were few and far between, and while Kenny Dalglish's side often advanced into good attacking positions their forays invariably fizzled out because of poor play in the final third. Everton meanwhile looked com-fortable throughout the first period, mopping up Liverpool's attacks with ease and probing for openings.

Internet

Andy Carroll celebrates with team-mate Luis Suarez.