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True patriotism

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

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

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win attend second communal ordination, novitiation ceremony in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area



A congregation led by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win receives Eight Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw of Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery at second communal ordination and novitiation ceremony in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—The second communal ordination and novitiation ceremony of Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was held at Aung Yadana Monastery in Shwekyabin Ward of the township in the morning of New Year Day, attended by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya

Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara and members of the Sangha, Union ministers, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, guests and local people.

At first, members of the Sangha recited *Namo Tassa* three times. They took the Eight Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavisara.

Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. The President and wife donated alms to Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw.

The Union ministers and those present donated provisions to members of the Sangha.

The Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing the merits gained.

(See page 8)

7 days in tranquility

Eyes downcast, yellow-robed monks go alms-round single file in procession, with jet black alms bowls cradles in their arms.

PAGE 7



Annie Clark, a first-grade student at Wilson Christian Academy in the US who was born without hands or lower arms, demonstrates how she writes in a booklet.

PAGE 6



Singer Tom Petty and Heartbreakers perform during the half time show of NFL's Super Bowl XLII football game between New England Patriots and New York Giants in Glendale, Arizona, on 3 February, 2008.

PAGE 13

Didier Drogba of Chelsea celebrates scoring against Barcelona during their Champions League semi-final first leg match at Stamford Bridge in London, on 18 April, 2012.



PAGE 14



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win present offertories to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavisara of Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 21 April, 2012

Display anger in an appropriate way

Anger is the strong feeling that you have when something has happened that you think is bad or unfair. Anger is important for survival.

It isn't surprising that anger, given its primal origins, often results in action. When we feel angry, there is a strong impulse to get angry.

Bottling up anger is a real problem and it can lead to a heart attack, meaning that stifling anger is dangerous and expressing anger is good.

A recent study suggested that heart-disease symptoms may be severe in hostile individuals who try to suppress their negative feelings and behave in a socially acceptable way. And it has concluded that suppressing anger after receiving an insult or unjustified verbal attack is unhealthy.

The most unhealthy approach is to focus on solving the problem that has promoted the anger, for those with impatient and aggressive behaviour are more likely to develop heart disease. And those who had high scores on the hostility scale have developed heart disease four to five times more often.

Expressing anger in the workplace usually brings negative reactions. Whether at work or at home, chronic anger like chronic anxiety or chronic despair is unhealthy.

Although there are risky to venting anger at work, displaying anger at home can be safe and therapeutic if it's done in an appropriate way. The challenge is thus not to get rid of anger but to use it as vehicle for productive change.

Dy Construction Minister inspects Laylu Bridge, roads



Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint looks into maintenance of Laylu Bridge on Hsipaw-Panglon-Namhsam Road.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint on 12 April inspected Yangon-Mandalay Expressway by car and then looked into PyinOoLwin-Kyaukme-Hsipaw Road and Hsipaw-Panglon-Namhsam Road.

On Hsipaw-Panglon-Namhsam Road, the deputy minister viewed maintenance of Laylu Bridge. After giving instructions on maintenance works for the bridge, the deputy minister met officials at the office of Namhsam Township Public Works. At the meeting, he called for maintenance of the Hsipaw-Panglon-Namhsam Road to be used all the year round.

On 13 April, the deputy minister met staff at the office of Public Works in Hsipaw.—MNA

Union A&I Minister inspects irrigation water system

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing arrived at the construction site of sluice gate of Hsesu diversion weir in Hsesu Village, Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this morning.

There, he called for timely completion of a total of eight sluice gates each of which is 5 feet in length and 4 feet in width, and then presented locals Palethwe paddy strains and assistance. He left necessary instructions on keeping smooth for irrigation water system.

On his arrival at 100-acre modern farm near Kyarku Village, he heard reports presented by Mr. Zhang Jianyu on bilateral cooperation between C.E.T.C companies and Myanmar companies in doing research for producing eight types of Palethwe hybrid paddy.

He proceeded to his inspection tour of the 100-acre modern farm in Tegvigon in Zabuthiri Township, where he paid a close attention to progress of research task for growing four types of Palethwe hybrid paddy in the paddy strain competitive farm.—MNA

Union Religious Affairs Minister carries out religious tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung on 14 April inspected works for keeping Bagan International Theravada Buddhist Research Dhamma Thabin neat and clean and construction of Dhamma Duta Yaungkyi Building.

He then went to Taungzalak Youths Training School in Pakokku where he

provided cash assistance and journals, magazines and religious books for the library.

In the afternoon, he inspected progress of Sinmaye Village Basic Education Middle School (branch) new building in Yesagyo Township. He met community elders and villagers and presented journals and magazines for

the library. He then presented offertories to the abbot of the Bongkyang Monastery.

He also inspected construction of concrete bridges in Sinchaung Village and Zigon Village, construction of new BEMS school building and village library in Sinchaung Village.

The Union Minister on 15 April morning paid obeisance to Pakhan

Sithushin Tharakkhan Buddha Image in ancient Pakhangyi city and inspected construction of Yesagyo Township Sasana Beikman.

The Union Minister on 16 April visited the 1000-acre plantation of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization (Central) in Ohnmakha Village, Nawngkhiko Township.—MNA

Sagaing Region Chief Minister meets local farmers

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye inspected progress in construction of Basic Education Primary School in Ywathit Village, Budalin Township on 18 April. He met with local farmers there and fulfilled their agricultural, economic and health requirements.

He then met local farmers from Magyioak Village of Budalin Township, Ywatha, Watchaunggyi, Natgyi, Gwaybin villages of Kani Township and presented publications and periodicals to the village libraries. He also inspected anti-bank erosion works in Watchaunglay Village.

He then inspected the chosen site for construction of creek-crossing bridge in



Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye inspects anti-bank erosion works at Watchaunglay Village in Kani Township.—MNA

Taungkyin Village in Budalin Township. He met local farmers from Yathit and Khochaung villages and inspected progress of new

school building construction of Khochaung Village Basic Education Middle School (branch).

The region minister met

locals of Taungdwin Village and attended to their needs and provided the village library with publications.

MNA

MOC General Secretary meets athletes, instructors

YANGON, 20 April — General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik met with athletes and instructors who will participate in competitions and meetings in foreign countries.

At the meeting held at the Sports and Physical Education Department here this afternoon, the general secretary of MOC gave instructions to the athletes who are going to compete in the world's women's boxing, 7th South-East Asian track and field tournament in Singapore and 1st track and

field tournament for the disabled in Malaysia for 2012 and instructors who will attend the meeting of the instructors of International Truck & Field Federation in Indonesia, congress of the Asian Weightlifting Federation in the Republic of Korea and instructors for Asia weightlifting championship.—MNA

Parittas recited, cash donated to aged war veterans

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—The Paritta recitation and respect-paying ceremony was held at the meeting hall of Aungmyethazan Township War Veterans Organization in Mandalay on 18 April afternoon.

Members of the Sangha led by Hlwataung Monastery Sayadaw Ashin Indačara of Allakappa Monastery recited Parittas.

Later, K 10,000 each was donated to 104 War Veterans Organization members of above 75 years old.

MNA

Accountancy courses on 29 April

YANGON, 20 April—The 242nd Book-keeping Course and the 153rd Accountancy Course Level-II, conducted by Myanmar Accountants Society, will be opened free of charge on 29 April.

Those who passed the matriculation examination may attend the courses.

The book-keeping course covers two sessions—one on Sundays and another on Saturdays and Sundays.

Those wishing to attend the course may contact MAA at 91/93 on 49th Street (middle block) in Pazundaung Township, Tel: 01-291826 and 095019979.—MNA

Deadly attacks hit six Iraqi provinces, 43 killed

BAGHDAD, 20 April—Deadly attacks struck six Iraqi Provinces on Thursday, killing at least 43 people and wounding some 155, in what appeared to be an attempt by militant groups to destabilize the country and undermine confidence in the Iraqi government.

In the Capital Baghdad, one of the deadliest attack occurred in the morning in the northern neighbourhood of Kadhimyah, when a car bomb parked near a hotel went off and killed up to three people and wounded 20 others.

In central Baghdad, another car bomb detonated near the convoy of the Iraqi Health Minister Majid Hamad Amin Jamil, a Kurd, in al-Talaie Square, killing two of the minister's bodyguards and wounding four people.

A third car and three more roadside bombs ripped through the capital and killed a total of six people and wounded some 28 others.

Near Baghdad, a suicide bomber blew up his car bomb near a military checkpoint in the town of Tarmiyah, some 30 km north of Baghdad, killing a soldier and wounding six

others.

In a separate incident, a suicide bomber blew up his explosive vest in the industrial district in Taji area, some 20 km north of Baghdad, killing five people and wounding nine others. Also in Taji area, two roadside bombs detonated in the area, killing a civilian and wounding five others.

In Iraq's northern-central

government-backed Awakening Council group members, killing a total of eight people and wounding five others.

In Iraq's northern city of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, two car bombs and a roadside bomb struck the Iraqi police in the morning, killing a total of four policemen and wounding 23 people, including seven policemen.



People gather at the scene of a car bomb attack in the Amil neighbourhood of Baghdad Iraq, on 19 April, 2012. A wave of morning bombings across several cities on Thursday, killing and injuring dozens of Iraqis, police said, shattering weeks of calm in a reminder of the nation's continued insurgency.—INTERNET

province of Salahudin, two car bombs and a roadside bomb struck the city of Samarra, some 120 km north of Baghdad, targeted Iraqi police and

Colonel Taha Mohammed, police chief of al-Maqdad police station, was among the wounded, the police said.

Near Kirkuk, six mortar

rounds landed on a village in the city of Dibis, some 45 km northwest of Kirkuk, killing four people and wounding six others. The ethnically-mixed province of Kirkuk and its capital Kirkuk City are part of disputed areas between the Kurds and both Arabs and Turkomans.

The area has long been the hotbed of insurgency since the US-led invasion in 2003. In Iraq's eastern Province of Diyala, a suicide bomber blew up his explosive vest at the entrance of the house of a police officer in al-Amin district in northern the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, killing a passer-by and wounding 11 people. The officer survived the attack unharmed as he was not at home, but five of his family members were among the wounded, the police said.

In a separate incident, gunmen attacked a police checkpoint in al-Hadeed area, just west of Baquba and killed a policeman and wounded three others.

In Iraq's western province of Anbar, a booby-trapped car detonated near a



Baghdad municipality workers clean up after a car bomb attack in Palestine Street, Baghdad Iraq on 19 April, 2012. A wave of morning bombings across several cities on Thursday, killing and injuring dozens of Iraqis, police said, shattering weeks of calm in a reminder of the nation's continued insurgency.—INTERNET

police vehicle in central the provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, killing two policemen and wounding four others aboard along with a passer-by. In a separate incident, a policeman was killed and three other wounded when a car bomb struck their patrol in central Ramadi.

In addition, a sticky bomb attached to the car of a policeman went off in southern the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, killing the policeman and wounding two people accompanying him in

his car.

Also in Fallujah, gunmen planted bombs in the house of a police officer in southern the city and blew them up, wounding two family members, but the officer himself escaped unhurt as he was not at home.

In Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, four civilians were injured when a roadside bomb exploded near a popular restaurant in central the city of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, a provincial police source anonymously told *Xinhua*.—*Xinhua*



Photo illustration of US Black Hawk helicopters in Helmand province. A US Black Hawk helicopter that Washington said crashed in Afghanistan with four people believed to be on board had been responding to a suicide bombing, an Afghan official said Friday.—INTERNET

US helicopter crashes in Afghanistan, four feared dead

WASHINGTON, 20 April—A US military helicopter went down in poor weather in Afghanistan on Thursday, the military said, in a crash that officials believed may have killed all four people onboard.

A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Black Hawk helicopter crashed in the Regional Command-Southwest area, which includes the traditional Taleban stronghold of Helmand province. Poor weather appeared to have been the cause of the crash.

Another official said all four people aboard the helicopter were feared dead.

Almost 3,000 foreign soldiers have died in

Afghanistan since the West's war against the Taleban and other militants began in 2001. Despite a resilient insurgency, the United States, like its NATO allies, plans to withdraw most of its combat troops from the country by the end of 2014.—*Reuters*



Turkey intercepts ship with suspected arms headed for Syria

ISTANBUL, 20 April — Turkey has intercepted a vessel in the Mediterranean suspected of carrying weapons and ammunition to Syria, a diplomatic source told AFP on Wednesday. “We

This file photo released on 8 Dec, 2011, by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, claims to show US RQ-170 Sentinel drone which Teheran says its forces downed earlier this week, as the chief of the aerospace division of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, right, listens to an unidentified colonel, in an undisclosed location, Iran. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said on 18 April, 2012 that Russia and China have asked Teheran to provide them with information on a US drone captured by the Islamic Republic in December.—INTERNET



Syrian refugee children stand behind a fence at the Boynuyogun Turkish Red Crescent camp in the Altinozu District of Hatay, near the Syrian border in 2011.—INTERNET

received information that the vessel has a cargo of arms and ammunition headed for Syria,” the source said on condition of anonymity, adding that Turkish authorities would search the vessel.

The Antigua and Barbuda flagged Atlantic Cruiser which anchored off

the coast of Iskenderun port Wednesday morning belongs to a German company.

The search of its cargo was delayed until Thursday morning due to stormy weather, the Anatolia news agency reported. The German shipping firm denied allegations Monday that its vessel was carrying Iranian arms to Syria, violating EU sanctions against the Damascus regime.

German news weekly *Der Spiegel* reported at the weekend that the Atlantic Cruiser, owned by German company Bockstiegel but chartered by a Ukrainian firm, had been stopped on the high seas with Iranian weapons on board. Bockstiegel said they had no indication that the cargo included arms or

ammunition as stated in the Press, and the Ukrainian company that chartered the ship also said that the cargo contained no weapons, but legal goods for civilian use.

Bockstiegel acknowledged that the ship's crew had only been able to check “the container stacked at the top”, and the ship would continue its journey only after it passes the inspection.

Late Wednesday Bockstiegel said in a statement that the Atlantic Cruiser entered the port of Iskenderun “unsolicited and as agreed” with German and Turkish authorities. The ship was “never stopped or intercepted by Turkish authorities”, the company said, adding that a stop in Iskenderun had been planned from the start.

Iran is under a UN arms embargo imposed in 2007 due to its alleged nuclear activities while Western countries have declared a similar embargo against Iranian ally Syria since a bloody crackdown on dissent began over a year ago. Amid Damascus' violent crackdown, Turkey imposed gradual sanctions against its neighbour—including interception of arms shipments there by air, land and sea.

Throughout last year, Turkey intercepted several ships and trucks suspected of carrying weapons into Syria through Turkish territory.

Internet

Russia, China seek info on US drone held by Iran

TEHERAN, 20 April—Iran's semi-official *Fars* news agency says Russia and China have asked Teheran to provide them with information on a US drone captured by the Islamic Republic in December.

The Thursday report quotes Ahmad Karimpour, an adviser to Iran's defence minister, as saying Teheran has received requests for information on the RQ-170 Sentinel, but Moscow and

Beijing have been most aggressive in their pursuit of details on the drone. He did not elaborate.

Iran said in December that it had downed the unmanned stealth aircraft in eastern Iran. US officials have acknowledged losing the drone. They have said Iran will find it hard to exploit any data and technology aboard it because of measures taken to limit the intelligence value of drones operating over hostile territory.—*Internet*

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

India testfires intercontinental Agni-V ballistic missile off eastern coast

NEW DELHI, 20 April— India Thursday successfully testfired its homemade nuclear-capable Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missile, with a range of 5,000 kms, off the coast of the eastern state of Odisha, sources said.

"The missile, with a strike range of over 5,000 kms, was testfired at 08:07 am local time from Wheeler Island off Odisha coast, hitting the

target 5,000 km away.

"We have done it. Superhit," said V.L. Saraswat, chief of the India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

The missile's 17.5 metre tall, solid-fueled, has three stages and a launch weight of 50 tonnes. It has cost more than 2.5 billion rupees (480 million US dollars) to develop," the sources said.

Agni-V incorporates

advanced technologies involving ring laser gyroscope and accelerometer for navigation and guidance, they said, adding the solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile has been developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization. The missile brings the whole of Asia, 70 percent of Europe and other regions under its strike range and puts India among a select band of countries in the world to possess the technology of Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles.—Xinhua



On 19 April, 2012, India successfully testfired its homemade nuclear-capable Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missile, with a range of 5,000 kms, off the coast of the eastern state of Odisha, sources said.—XINHUA

Dinosaur eggs found in Russia's Chechnya

MOSCOW, 20 April— Geologists in Russia's volatile Chechnya Region have discovered what they believe to be fossilised dinosaur eggs laid by one of the huge extinct reptiles that roamed the Earth more than 60 million years ago. "We've found about 40 eggs so far, the exact number has not been established," said Said-Emin Dzhabrailov, a geologist at the Chechen State University.

"There could be many more lying under the ground."

The find was uncovered when a construction crew was blasting through a hillside to build a road near the region's border with former Soviet Georgia in the Caucasus Mountains.

A team of geologists stumbled across the smooth, oval rock-like forms, which range from 25 cm to one metre coincidentally on a recent trip to the area, said Dzhabrailov.

He said paleontologists were needed to determine which species of dinosaur had laid them. Dzhabrailov said that the regional Chechen government, which is eager to shed the region's reputation for violence, is considering turning the area into a nature



preserve and seeking to attract tourists.

Federal forces fought two separatist wars between 1994-2001 in Chechnya, and an Islamist insurgency persists in the mostly Muslim Region and surrounding provinces of Russia's North Caucasus.

A man looks at what is believed to be fossilised dinosaur eggs at a site in Russia's volatile Chechnya Region on 14 April, 2012. REUTERS

However, violence has declined under the strong-arm rule of Ramzan Kadyrov, whose multi-million dollar construction projects are aimed at raising the region's profile and boosting the tourism potential of the troubled area.—Reuters

China 'river pig' deaths raise extinction fears

SHANGHAI, 20 April— China says 16 endangered finless porpoises have been found dead since the beginning of the year and experts blame water pollution and climate change for pushing the species toward extinction.

The freshwater porpoise—popularly known in Chinese as the "river pig"—mainly lives in China's Yangtze River and two lakes linked to the waterway.

Authorities have discovered 10 dead porpoises in Dongting Lake in the central Province of Hunan since March, said a statement Thursday by the government of Yueyang City, which is located on the lake's shore.

Another six dead porpoises have been found in Poyang Lake in the eastern province of Jiangxi since the beginning of the year, the

official Xinhua news agency said late Wednesday.

It quoted experts as warning the species will be extinct within a matter of years.

Wang Kexiong, a researcher at China's Institute of Hydrobiology, said water pollution, shipping, sand dredging and illegal fishing were all possible contributing factors to the recent deaths.

Many waterways in China have become heavily contaminated with toxic waste from factories and farms—pollution blamed on more

than three decades of rapid economic growth and lax enforcement of environmental protection laws. Tests have shown that some of the porpoises are believed to have died of starvation, it said.

In 2006, China was estimated to have only 1,200 finless porpoises left. That same year, the Baiji—a freshwater dolphin native to the Yangtze River—was declared extinct. Earlier this year, a survey found just 65 "river pigs" in Dongting Lake and 300-400 in Poyang Lake, the report said.—Internet



File photo shows a finless porpoise at an aquarium in China in 2006. China says 16 endangered finless porpoises have been found dead since the beginning of the year and experts blame water pollution and climate change for pushing the species toward extinction.—INTERNET

Twitter to limit use of patents in lawsuits

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 April— Twitter said on Tuesday that it would structure its patents so they could not be used for offensive litigation purposes without permission from the people who developed them.

Twitter said the move would give inventors more control over their creations and ensure its patents are not used to "impede the innovation of others," the company said in a post on its official blog.

"It is a commitment from Twitter to our employees that patents can only be used for defensive purposes.

We will not use the patents from employees' inventions in offensive litigation without their permission," Twitter said on the blog.

Twitter, which launched its microblogging service in 2006, does not currently have any patents, but sources said the company has applied for many.

Patent litigation involving tech companies has exploded during the past two years.

Yahoo Inc sued Facebook in March for infringing ten of

its patents, and smartphone manufacturers such as Apple Inc and Microsoft Corp are engaged in a fierce legal war against rivals such as Motorola Mobility.

Some patent holders are derided as "patent trolls" by critics, a term the holders say unfairly paints them as villains for helping inventors make money.

Twitter said that the limits on the use of its patents, which it dubbed the Innovator's Patent Agreement, will apply to patents even after they are sold.

Eric Goldman, an associate professor at Santa Clara University School of Law, said Twitter's announcement will burnish the company's standing among software engineers, some of whom have grumbled at seeing their patents used to sue other companies.

"Unquestionably, it's an effort to define Twitter's brand in the marketplace and to signal that its perhaps more engineering-friendly than companies that wouldn't make such a promise," said Goldman.

Reuters



Researchers create hair follicles from stem cells

TOKYO, 20 April—A group of researchers have successfully created an organ that creates hair using two different types of stem cells. Stem cells have the potential to evolve into any tissue or organ. The research group from the Tokyo University of Science focused on the epithelial stem cells and hair papilla cells found around each individual hair.

The researchers removed these stem cells from the area around the whiskers of a mouse and transplanted them onto the animal's back. The cells later developed into organs that create hair called follicles.

The researchers say that the follicles were able to generate whisker-like hairs. When cells that create melamine were transplanted together, the whiskers turned dark.

The number of hair follicles grew in proportion to the number of transplanted stem cells. The group says the discovery could be used to reverse hair loss.—NHK

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

US factory decline suggests economy losing steam

WASHINGTON, 20 April—Output at US factories slipped in March and builders started construction on fewer homes, offering cautionary signals for an economy that appeared to be gaining traction.

Manufacturing output slipped for the first time in four months, dropping 0.2 percent, the US Federal Reserve said on Tuesday.

The decline dragged on overall industrial production which was unchanged and fell short of analysts' expectations.

"It looks pretty bad on the face of it," said Tom Porcelli, an economist at RBC Capital Markets in New York.

Surging exports and efforts by companies to restock their shelves have made economic growth look more solid in recent weeks.

The factory data did little to change that view, but economists said it suggested the recovery lost a little steam at the close of the first quarter, in part due to headwinds from Europe's debt crisis, which is weighing on global growth.

"(It) raises the possibility that the recent easing in global demand is starting to take a

toll on US manufacturers," said Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics in London.

Signs of a cooldown in growth became apparent earlier this month when a report showed hiring slowed sharply in March.

Still, Porcelli and others said the factory sector, which has been a key driver of America's recovery from the 2007-2009 recession, appeared to have enough momentum to continue growing.

Auto production, for example, increased 0.6 percent after rising 0.8 percent in February. Also, initial estimates for manufacturing output in February were revised higher.

Citing these factors, Goldman Sachs on Tuesday raised its forecast for first-quarter growth in gross domestic product to a 2.6 percent annual rate from 2.5 percent.

That would be a slowdown from the 3 percent rate clocked in the fourth quarter, but still faster than many analysts expected a few weeks ago.—Reuters



A construction worker builds a new home at a development area in San Marcos, California on 20 March, 2012.—REUTERS

Euro zone debt fears ease, German bond sale eyed

LONDON, 20 April—European shares and the single currency held within narrow ranges on Wednesday as investors' fears over Spain eased and growth hopes rose, with the focus on a two-year German bond sale, which some fear could struggle, given ultra-low yields.

Strong demand at a

Spanish bill auction on Tuesday soothed fears of a flare up in the euro zone crisis, but the rise in short-term borrowing costs underscored the challenges still facing the highly indebted country.

Spain will also auction two- and 10-year bonds on Thursday, while France, where uncertainty over the outcome of a presidential election is rising, is also due to sell debt.

"Markets are undergoing a consolidation phase after a strong rally earlier in the year, and if Spain's bond auctions on Thursday pass without a problem, investors will likely become more committed to risk-taking," said Hirokazu Yuihama, a senior strategist at Daiwa Securities in Tokyo.

German Bund futures were 12 ticks higher at 140.08, while the existing March 2014 bond was yielding only 0.16 percent in the secondary market.

In equity markets the

well-supported Spanish debt sale, signs of strong growth in Germany and positive US corporate earnings releases were supporting prices, but the major share indexes



A man takes a photo of displays showing market prices at the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 11 April, 2012.—REUTERS

eased slightly after the previous day's strong gains. The euro zone blue-chip Euro STOXX 50 index, which saw its biggest daily gain of the year on Tuesday, retreated slightly to be down 0.4 percent at 2,357.93.

The FTSE Eurofirst index

of top European shares opened down 0.1 percent at 1052.61. The euro was down 0.15 percent at \$1.3105, while the dollar index measured against a basket of major currencies was up 0.3 percent at 79.72.

Reuters

Using AIDS drugs to prevent infection: a bargain?

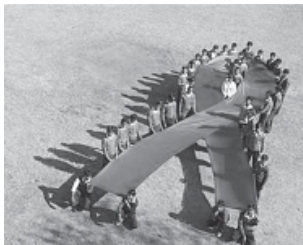
CHICAGO, 20 April—Giving an AIDS-fighting drug to men who are at high risk of HIV infection would cost billions, but it might be worth it in terms of reducing infection rates, US researchers said on 16 April.

Since 2010, when a landmark study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that giving a daily dose of Gilead Sciences' Truvada to men who have sex

prophylaxis," often shortened to PrEP. The drug is already approved to treat people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS.

A prior study found that giving Truvada to all men who have sex with men — who account for more than half of the estimated 56,000 new infections annually in the United States — was too costly.

School children make an AIDS logo during the preparation for the World AIDS Day programme at a school in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh. REUTERS



with men can reduce HIV infection rates by 44 percent, researchers have been trying to work out how to make this treatment approach financially feasible.

Gilead is seeking permission for Truvada — a combination of its HIV drugs Emtriva, also known as emtricitabine, and Viread, or tenofovir — to be used as a form of "pre-exposure

And giving the drug to healthy men to prevent a future infection might come at the expense of treating people who are already infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, they said.

Instead, the team looked specifically at men who are high risk of developing HIV — those who have five or more sexual partners a year.

If just 20 percent of these

high-risk individuals took the drug it could prevent 41,000 new infections over a period of 20 years, at a cost of about \$16.6 billion during that period, the team found.

By targeting this high-risk group, the team estimates the treatment could prevent twice as many infections as it could if given to 20 percent of the general population of men who have sex with men, and it would offer a better value.

"Use in high-risk men who have sex with men would provide substantial health benefits at a lower cost, although the budgetary effect would still be sizeable," Jessie Juusola, a PhD candidate at Stanford, and colleagues wrote in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. An estimated 1.2 million Americans have HIV, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

In preliminary guidelines issued last year, the CDC said only high-risk gay and bisexual men should use a daily AIDS pill to protect themselves from the virus.

An FDA advisory panel is expected to consider in mid-May whether to allow use of the drug as a way to prevent HIV infection in healthy people.—Reuters

Scientists find neural stem cell regulator

WASHINGTON, 20 April—Researchers at the University of Colorado (CU) have found that lack of a specific gene interrupts neural tube closure, a condition that can cause death or paralysis. The study was the cover story this week in the journal *Genes & Development*.

"The neural tube is the beginning of the brain and spinal cord," said the study's lead investigator Lee Niswander, professor of pediatrics at the CU School of Medicine. "A defect in the mLin41 gene doesn't allow the tube to close because not

enough neural progenitor cells are being made."

Niswander and the paper's first author, Jianfu Chen, made their findings while studying neural stem cells in mice. They said the cells use distinct self-renewal programmes to meet the demand of tissue growth and repair during different stages of embryonic development. The molecular mechanisms that control these programmes remain largely unknown.

The researchers discovered that the gene mLin41 in mice controls the extent of

neural stem cell proliferation during the process of neural closure but not at the later stage of brain development. According to Chen, mLin41 works with small RNAs and RNA regulators that have never been investigated before in connection with neural tube formation.

"Our work opens up a whole other pathway toward understanding neural tube defects," Niswander said. "It's a new and significant piece of the puzzle behind understanding how this happens."

Xinhua

16 Amish plead not guilty in Ohio hair attacks

CLEVELAND, 20 April—Sixteen men and women pleaded not guilty Thursday in beard- and hair-cutting attacks against fellow Amish in Ohio.

The 10 men and six women and their attorneys overflowed defense tables and the jury box as they entered the pleas before US District Court Judge Dan Polster in response to an updated indictment.

The latest indictment added new allegations that the suspects tried to hide or destroy evidence, including a disposable camera, shears and a bag of hair from the victims.

Members of the Amish community who were in court left through a rear enclosed walkway without speaking.

The judge said he would keep the schedule set after the first indictment — a 30 July deadline for any plea change and 27 Aug trial.



Members of the Amish community leave the US Federal Courthouse Thursday, 19 April, 2012, in Cleveland. Sixteen men and women have pleaded not guilty in beard- and hair-cutting attacks against fellow Amish in Ohio.—INTERNET

Joseph Dubyak, attorney for Linda Schrock, daughter of alleged ringleader Samuel Mullet Sr., said the related extended families are helping each other during the busy planting season with seven defendants still held on bond.

"I talked to my client and she's got her other members of her family and her children planting the crops in the field," he said outside court.

"They planted the oats and they are getting the corn ready. They are all pitching in, they are all working together. They have somebody conducting their religious services."

A feud over church discipline allegedly led to attacks in which the beards and hair of men and hair of women were cut, an act considered deeply offensive in Amish culture. The Amish believe the Bible instructs women to let their hair grow long and men to grow beards and stop shaving once they marry. Several members of the group living in Bergholz carried out the attacks in September, October and November by forcibly cutting the beards and hair of Amish men and women and then taking photos to shame them, authorities have said.

Ohio has an estimated Amish population of just under 61,000 — second only to Pennsylvania — with most living in rural counties south and east of Cleveland.—Internet

Man killed by five-metre shark in S Africa

CAPE TOWN, 20 April—A 20-year-old body boarder was killed Thursday when a giant shark estimated at up to five metres (16 feet) long bit off his leg in a Cape Town bay, in South Africa's second deadly mauling this year.

David Lillienfeld's brother Gustav tried to pull him to safety when the shark struck while the siblings were bodyboarding, reported Eyewitness News website.

"The deceased man sustained complete amputation of his right leg, below the hip, while body boarding with his brother and friends," said National Sea Rescue Institute spokesman Craig Lambinon.

"There are no other bite marks or lacerations on the deceased man's body — only the complete amputation of the right leg and the leg has not been recovered."

Witnesses reported a single shark, thought to be a Great White and measuring four to five metres, attacked the man. They said up to six sharks were spotted after the incident at a popular surfing and body boarding site in False Bay. The South African man's body was recovered off rocks on the shore after he was hauled to shore, said Lambinon.

City officials confirmed the fatal attack at Kogel Bay Resort which is near Gordon's



Three men were jailed for life Thursday over a south London gangland shooting that left five-year-old Thusha Kamaleswaran paralysed.—INTERNET

Trio jailed for Thusha shooting

LONDON, 20 April—Three men were jailed for life Thursday over a south London gangland shooting that left a five-year-old girl paralysed.

Nathaniel Grant, Anthony McCalla and Kazeem Kolawole were trying to kill a member of a rival gang in an off-licence when they accidentally hit Thusha Kamaleswaran, whose aunt owned the store in Stockwell, in the chest. They also seriously wounded another innocent bystander, Roshan Selvakumar, in the March 2011 attack.

The Old Bailey heard the trio, from the Organized Criminals gang, cycled to the shop intending to kill rival gangster Roshan Bryan of rival gang All Bout Money.

The trio were found guilty last month of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to the girl and Selvakumar, plus the attempted murder of Bryan.

Grant, 21, — who fired the gun which wounded the two innocent victims — was told Thursday he will serve a minimum of 17 years, while fellow gang members Kolawole, 19, and McCalla, 20, must serve at least 14 years.—Internet

First-grader born without hands wins penmanship award

NEW YORK, 20 April—Annie Clark, a 7-year-old born without hands but with a can-do spirit, has won a national award for penmanship.

The first grader at Wilson Christian Academy in the Pittsburgh-area was awarded the Nicholas Maxim Special Award for Excellent Penmanship at a surprise assembly at her school Wednesday, where she was presented with a trophy and \$1,000 prize from Zaner-Bloser, the textbook publishing company that sponsors the contest.

After accepting the award, Annie demonstrated for the audience how she writes, gripping the pencil steadily between her

forearms to perfect the letters and capitalization.

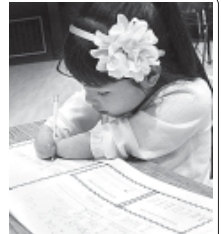
"She is a studious and conscientious student who really strives for perfection," her teacher Laura Erb said. "She is very determined to get it right. When she does any kind of writing, she wants to make sure that it's clear and concise and she really takes pride in her work."

Erb said Annie sometimes has to stand up to give herself leverage over the lined paper, but always keeps up in the classroom with her peers. In fact, she tutors other students.

"We don't consider her a special ed [student], she's just Annie," Erb said. "She picks up on things very quickly. She keeps pace with



Annie Clark who has won a national award for penmanship.—INTERNET



Annie Clark, a first-grade student at Wilson Christian Academy in the US who was born without hands or lower arms, demonstrates how she writes in a booklet.—INTERNET

the classroom and the curriculum."

Despite her disability, Annie can use scissors and glue in class, Erb said, and has learned how to dress herself, feed herself, swim and ride a bike.—Internet

Meningitis kills 749 in West, Central Africa

OUAGADOUGOU, 20 April — Meningitis has killed 749 people in West and Central Africa this year, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

In a report released here on Friday, OCHA said Burkina Faso and Chad were the most affected countries in West and Central Africa. In Burkina Faso, OCHA recorded 3,630 cases since the beginning of the year, which is 40 per cent of all cases reported in the

region and, out of which, 400 people had died by 1 April.

The organization's website, ochaonline, reported that most cases were found in the country's west bordering Mali, Ghana, Togo and Benin.

By 1 April, Burkina Faso had seen eight districts in an epidemic situation and 11 others on alert level. The meningitis disease in Burkina Faso is attributed to NmW135 germ.

Chad had registered 2,136 cases as per 1 April and 102

deaths.

OCHA said, "In the 11 West and Central African countries which have been affected, the meningitis season had killed a total of 749 people out of the 8,667 cases that had been reported by 1 April." While Burkina Faso, Benin and Chad reported more cases in March, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and the Central African Republic saw the incidence decline, OCHA said.

Internet

Three killed, several wounded in Texas cockfight shooting

HOUSTON, 20 April — Three people were killed and eight others injured Thursday morning when several masked gunmen opened fire at an illegal cockfighting match in the US state of Texas. The site of the shooting, a ranch near the city of Elsa, close to the Mexico border, hosted a sophisticated cockfighting operation that included concession stands and bleachers, according to CNN affiliate KRGV.

Several people with weapons of various caliber ambushed spectators and participants at the rooster battle and began "shooting indiscriminately" at the crowd.

Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino described the site as "the crime scene from hell."

Some spectators at the scene created more chaos and injured other people in a frantic attempt to get away. "It really has to be a chaotic situation. Because a lot of the spectators trampled all over the casings, spent casings, trampled the victims, and just wanted to get out of there." —Xinhua

A 20-year-old body boarder was killed Thursday when a giant shark estimated at up to five metres (16 feet) long bit off his leg in a Cape Town bay.—INTERNET



the eastern stretch of the large bay.

The attack is the latest shark blow for the top tourist city after a British man lost

parts of both legs at Fish Hoek in September, after he ignored warning flags on a beach which had been closed due to shark activity. Officials are

mulling a trial shark net for Fish Hoek, a popular swimming beach where three attacks, two deadly, have taken place.—Internet

7 days in tranquility

By TKK



The Aged, The Sick, The Dead and The Monk.

Things never stay the same and stable. The world is just too full of dirt and evil. Such were the thoughts overwhelming me since the beginning of this summer. As I saw leaves turning yellow and falling down preparing for revival in monsoon, I became aware of the circle of existences and wanted much to wash off my sins to start a new life. So, I nodded with much enthusiasm when asked whether I would join the Buddha's Order for Thingyan period.

It is traditional belief that Tha-

and pain of life and seek the peace of mind. I have dogged determination to free myself from the world of greed, resentment, and jealousy to find the Path to Liberation or Cessation of Suffering accompanying virtue for the entire lifetime. As soon as I put on yellow robes, the first thought of mine was to meditate to attain insight. I found myself a shady tree and sat down in the embrace of nature. The weather was boiling hot and within a few minutes, the beads of perspiration deterred my



Eyes downcast, yellow-robed monks go alms-round single file in procession, with jet black alms bowls cradles in their arms.

gyar-min, King of the celestials, comes down to us, the abode of humans, in the time of water festival, partly to celebrate it and partly to record the names of evil-doers on the parchment of dog-hide which is supposed to be absolute disgrace for us. He also carries another parchment made of gold on which he puts the names of the good. But it seemed that the Indra is too busy to check us in recent years or has run out of dog-hides and thus handed over his responsibility to our Big Brother Ko Gyi Kyaw, who is the well-known boozing spirit. The popularity of Tha-gyar-min is on the wane as youths sing and dance in honour of Ko Gyi Kyaw in whatever religious rituals.

As a senior monk was shaving my head, I was strong-willed to abandon the pleasure

concentration. My strong resolution surrendered the thirst of water and I adjourned to a nearby water pot to refresh myself.

The water was not bottled one but from the artesian wells in the monastery precinct. It was too tasteless to drink for I was used to drinking bottled water. To a man with strong determination and willing mind to make sacrifices for his goal, how can small difficulties like this one hamper his steps forward? So, I took out my mobile, called my roommates and asked them to send me a dozen of bottled water. It was 8 April, three days before the water festival.

As the silvery moon in company with twinkling stars appeared over the dark blue sky, there came the breeze. As it touched my bare head, I feel relaxed from the heat. Tonight, I would be the

new one clear of dirt and dread. I took deep breath putting myself in the middle of nowhere trying to catch the wild rampant mind. As I began to enjoy the bliss of solitude, a loud buzzing noise attacked my ears. They were the uninvited guests, mosquitoes from monastery. But, they did not keep Sabbath and neither spare my blood. I concentrated and concentrated. They bit and bit. My devotion was as firm as rock but their bite was unstoppable and unbearable. I took shelter in *Dhamma* but for the moment it was not as effective as mosquito net in which I took shelter for the night like a log.

April is supposed to be the time of mass novitiation ceremonies which are held especially during the water festival. The life of austerity and virtue in yellow robes with black alms-bowl, however short the period, is a must for a Buddhist man for his life is considered incomplete without novitiation.

The next morning was the formal ordination organized by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, followed by laypersons presenting the monks with offertories which is done as the act of *Dana* or giving to the new monks at the end of ordination. Then, we were offered with meal which was oily pilau and it made me feel dozy. An afternoon nap after the lunch makes one refresh. So goes the saying but when I woke up energetically the sun was setting in the west.

I was not much worried for I believed that I could conquer my mind to discover the Path to Liberation. Again, I sat inside the mosquito net, sheltering from the awful bite of flying blood suckers. As I was realizing the sugar-coated agonies of life, my phone rang, awakening my deep thoughts. It was from one of my female friends who was also my classmate. To be more exact, I have been waiting for her to say I am more than a friend to her. She asked my whereabouts as she did not know I am already the Son of Buddha. I told her that I was wearing yellow robes and she hung up and told me to call her back when I left the Buddha's Order as she had something to tell me.

Then, I got back to meditation. I tried to concentrate, but I could not help thinking of her. No, I cannot lose. I said to myself. She is an enemy who would drag me into the endless suffering. No, she would not for she has always encouraged me and been the guiding star of my life. I tried to drive her out of my mind, but at last I had to admit that she was too powerful to resist. *Dhamma* is sweet, but at the moment not as sweet as her smile. Well, I have so

much time left. As I would think no more of her, tonight I would miss her for the last time.

We went on our alms-round the next morning barefooted. Monks live solely on the offerings of the laity. The yellow-robed monks go on their rounds for alms every morning. Monks do this not because they have to depend on the charity of lay people but because of the spirit of humility and

and fell.

Leaning against a wall I ate my share,

Nor at the same time nor after feel disgust.

For only he who taketh as they come

The scraps of food, medicine from excrement,

The couch beneath the tree, the charity of lay people but because of the patch robe

Stand as a man in north, south,



Simple meal at a small rural monastery.

compassion for the people especially the poor, giving them a chance to do good deeds. There is a well-known story about Shin Maha Kassapa, a famous monk of the Buddha's time, who could, if he wished, have kings as his disciples. His loving-kindness and compassion towards people was, to quote Mrs Rhys Davids from her work *Psalms of the Early Buddhists*, like this:

"Down from my mountain lodge I came one day

And made my round for alms about the streets.

east or west.

When I was back from the alms-round, I was so tired and could not move. My legs were stiff from long-hour walking and thus could not meditate to attain insight. I had decided to join the Buddha's Order for seven days. So, I thought I had four days in my hands to use in quest for truth.

Unfortunately, the heat, drowsiness, remembrances, Thingyan songs and so on disrupted my grand plan in the remaining four days, leaving me no results except a bare head. I



People go to monastery Thingyan days to receive precepts from monks and keep Sabbath, bringing offertories whatever they can afford. Quantity or quality does not matter as much as the spirit of Dana.

A leper there I saw eating his meal,

In courtesy, I halted at his side. He with his hand all leprosy and diseased

Put in my bowl a morsel: as he threw,

A finger, mortifying, broke

thought the life of *Sangha* to be a life of ease. In fact, the reverse is true. But, I will never give up searching the End of Suffering. I would for sure join the Buddha's Order the next summer. But I feel I still am flesh and blood.



President U Thein Sein offers meals to members of the Sangha at communal ordination and novitiation ceremony.—MNA

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win attend second...

(from page 1)

The members of the Sangha and the congregation recited three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.

After the ceremony, the President and wife performed rituals of golden and

silver showers in commemoration of the successful completion of the ceremony.

Later, they offered meals to members of the Sangha.

At the ceremony, a total of 20 men and 100 boys, totalling 120 from Thabyegon Ward, Shwekyabin Ward, Alyinlo, Pyankapyay, Tegyigon, Gonmin-in, Shadaw, Letpan Khahla, Aungchantha, Taukhtein, Nyaungbinwaing and Pyaykapyaylay villages of Zabuthiri Township were ordained into monkhood and initiated novice hood.—MNA

Paritta recited over Nay Pyi Taw and its environs

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—Together with member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than and officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, members of the Sangha led by State

Ovadaçariya Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara recited Parittas in the sky of Nay Pyi Taw and its environs at 7.30

am on New Year Day by helicopter.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than and officials dispensed Metta by spreading Paritta water and sand.—MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, offers meals to members of the Sangha at communal ordination and novitiation ceremony.—MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister attends respect-paying ceremony



Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win and party release fingerlings into Mazin Dam.—MNA

YANGON, 20 April—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win and wife on 17 April attended Parittas recitation ceremony held at his residence and donated offertories to Sayadaws.

Next the region chief minister and wife and region

ministers released fingerlings into Mazin dam.

Afterwards, respect paying ceremony to aged persons at Buddhaathan Dhamma Beikman was held. The region chief minister extended greetings and made cash donation.

In the ceremony, one of the aged persons spoke words of thanks on behalf of all aged persons. The 493-old people from 31 wards attended and those who could not attend the ceremony received the donation at home.—MNA

42 KIA members exchange arms for peace

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—Kachin State has experienced battles and conflicts since June 2011 which had forced KIA members to abandon their families to march to the battlefield. Under the gunpoint order of KIA leaders, KIA members had no choice but were much worried for their families. KIA members have suffered a great loss and casualties in engagement with the military columns with their health deteriorating because of terrible weather and poor conditions. In addition, they had no chance to run farm for livelihood of their families. The situation was worse as many were also injured or killed themselves in mine attacks. Many regretted fighting meaningless wars, killing innocent civilians, damaging communication links, and roads and bridges. So many a number of KIA members have left and are

leaving the KIA. Nationalities of Kachin State are anticipating the eternal peace hoping KIO/KIA to realize their wrong acts and get back to right path like other ethnic armed groups.

In this situation, 35 KIA members from Brigade-5 led by Corporal Kyaw Hsan bringing along with 23 assorted arms at Talawgyi Station in Myitkyina Township exchanged arms for peace on 16 April, who said the meaningless wars were more than enough. They shot dead their close supervisor who forced them into wars in their efforts to mend. The Armed Forces and the local people extended a warm welcome to them and are arranging for their rehabilitation and security of their families.

Kachin State government, in its endeavours for eternal peace aspired by people of Kachin State, has formed state peacemaking group which held peace negotiation with KIO/KIA for three times between June and August 2011. As the government also is trying to build lasting peace for stability and national reconsolidation, its Union level peacemaking group has also held peace talks with KIO/KIA for three times—on 29 November,

2011, on 18,19 January, 2012 and on 8,9,10 March, 2012—at Shweli as demanded by them. Nevertheless, the eternal peace, the dream of nationalities from Kachin State is still far away from coming true due to some bigoted KIO/KIA leaders.

The news of the success of peace talks between other armed ethnic groups and region/state level peacemaking groups from the government side also came into the ears of national brethren in Kachin State and many KIO/KIA members whose trust on their leaders was thus declining resulting in factional disputes. Kachin people are much overjoyed to see KIA members returning to legal fold en masse. The news of warm welcome to KIA members by local people and the military has also impressed the two KIA members to exchange arms for peace at Myitkyina military camp and five at Talawgyi military camp on the first day of Myanmar New Year 17 April. A total of 42 KIA members have exchanged arms for peace so far and news sources said that there are still many left wishing to exchange arms for peace.

MNA

Regional development tasks inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe yesterday morning met and comforted the fire victims of Hnetkway Village, Seikpyu Township, Pakokku District, who

became homeless due to the fire that broke out on 15 April. The Region government donated rice, edible oil, salt and cash assistance to the victims. Departments and wellwishers of Pakokku District also provided cash

assistance.

Next, the region chief minister inspected clearing of debris and reconstruction of houses by staff of Fire Services Department and local people. Then, he inspected Salin Dam in Salin

Township, Minbu District and embankment along Mezei Dam and summer paddy cultivation.

In 2011-2012 summer paddy cultivation season, Minbu District has grown 66314 acres of summer paddy exceeding the target of 65974 acres.

MNA

Union Minister on inspection tour of main power sub-stations

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April— Union Minister for Electric Power-2 U Khin Maung Soe made an inspection tour of Nyaungbingyi main power sub-station in Monywa District, Sagaing Region on 18 April.

There, he heard reports presented by Head of the sub-station on 230 KV Ohntaw-Nyaungbingyi power grid and progress of power supply from 132 KV Kyunechaung-Nyaungbingyi power grid, as well as progress of power supply from seven 33 KV power grids and two 11 KV power grids to copper mine, garment factories, tasks for pumping river water and power distribution to Salingyi. Region electric engineer and project manager gave a supplementary report.

The Union Minister left necessary instructions and looked around switch gear room, battery room and switch yard.

Afterwards, he arrived at 132 KV Aungchantha main power sub-station. Head of the sub-station reported to him about receiving of power supply from 132 KV Nyaungbingyi-Aungchantha power grid including power distribution from four 66 KV power grids, one 11 KV power grid to projects for pumping river water in Monywa District, industrial zone, foundry plant, saw mill and medicinal industry.

After viewing the switch yard, the Union Minister inspected the construction of one 45 MVA transformer, which is to be a new facility for being able to receive fully power supply to Monywa District.

The Union Minister inspected 230 KV Ohntaw main power sub-station in Sagaing District, where he fulfilled needs and left necessary instructions.—MNA

MOC delegation arrives back from Russia

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April— A delegation of Myanmar Olympic Committee led by Chairman of MOC and Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports and for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan arrived back here yesterday morning after attending the 18th ANOC General Assembly and the 2nd World Olympic Sport Convention for Ministers of Sports held in Moscow of Russian Federation from 13 to 17 April under the cooperation between International Olympic Committee and Association of the National Olympic Committees.

At the general assembly and convention, Chairman of International Olympic Committee Chairman of Association of the National Olympic Committees Minister of Sports of Russian Federation Mr Vitaly Mutko and Chairman of the committee for organizing London (2012) Olympic Games Lord Sebastian Coe delivered



18th ANOC General Assembly and the 2nd World Olympic Sport Convention for Ministers of Sports in progress at Crowne Plaza Hotel in World Trade Centre, Moscow, Russian Federation.—MNA

opening speeches and Olympic policy and performances, sport and health, education, economy and communication responses, advanced sport activities, sports and anti-narcotics, illegal sports and games, nurturing of new generation sportsmen and cooperation between National Olympic Committees and governmental organizations were discussed. During the visit, Union Minister U Tint Hsan met ANOC Chairman

Sheikhahmad-Al Fahad Alsabah, officials of International Olympic Committee, officials of international sports federations, chairmen and officials of National Olympic Committees and Sports Ministers and exchanged views on Olympic activities, sport improvement, matters related to events of XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar.

The general assembly and convention were held at

Crowne Plaza Hotel of World Trade Center of Moscow and they were attended by IOC Chairman Dr Jacques Rogge, ANOC Chairman Sheikhahmad-Al Fahad Alsabah, Russian Olympic Committee Chairman Mr Alexander Zhukov, chairmen and officials of 203 National Olympic Committees across the world, Sports Ministers, presidents of International Sports Federations and representatives.

MNA

Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and party back from Malaysia



Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and party who attended 13th Defence Services Asia Exhibition and Conference 2012 (DSA-2012) in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia being welcomed back at the airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April— A Myanmar delegation led by Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) this morning arrived back from Malaysia, after attending the 13th Defence Services Asia Exhibition and Conference 2012 (DSA-2012) held at Putra World Trade Center in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia.

They were welcomed back by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, senior military officers and officials concerned at Yangon International Airport.

The delegation led by Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win was accompanied by South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Thein and senior military officers.—MNA

UMFCCI representatives leave for Cambodia

YANGON, 20 April —A representative group led by General Secretary Dr Myo Thet of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and a delegation led by CEC member U Kyaw Thein and

Executive Daw Cho Thiri Maung who will act advisers left here by air for Cambodia to take part in Mekong Business Plan Challenge to be held in Phnom Penh on 21 April.

The two groups also include the young persons

who won the first and second prizes in Business Plan Contest 2011 jointly held by UMFCCI and CIESF of Japan. This is the first ever contest for Myanmar to participate in under the titles of Mini ASEAN Village and Waste to Value.—MNA

Mon State Chief Minister inspects development undertakings in Mudon

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April— Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint attended Buddha Pujaniya of Kyeikze Pagoda in Kamawet Station, Mudon Township yesterday morning and opening of west stairway of the pagoda.

He then graced the stake-driven ceremony of Htaungpu Library in

Htaungkay Village-tract and presented offertories to Sayadaws from Kamawet Station at Chinthae Monastery.

He then inspected breeding of mythun at Kankalay farm, 25-acre seed nursery, breeding of cows and culturing of antibiotics at Beyan agro-producers

association in Mudon.

The state chief minister then inspected selling of rattan-ware, clothing and interior decorations at Mudon Women's Vocational Training School and called for marketing of Myanmar traditional snacks and fruit from school compound.

MNA

Deputy L&F Minister inspects fish breeding camp

YANGON, 20 April — Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye arrived at Laydaunkan fish breeding camp in Dagon Myothit (East) Township yesterday morning. Fisheries Department Director-General U Khin Ko Lay and camp in

charge Daw Thin Thin Oo reported on repairing of fingerling ponds and breeding of fish species.

The deputy minister gave instructions on dissemination of knowledge about exceeding the target breeding of fish pedigrees, hatching in small-scale fish

ponds and breeding of fish for poverty alleviation. Then, he inspected preparations for fingerling ponds, raising of fish species, breeding of fish, poultry and cattle and kitchen crop plantations and integrated farming being undertaken with the capital of the staff.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye inspects integrated farming of staff of Laydaunkan fish breeding camp under Yangon Region Fisheries Department.—MNA

Myanmar, Thai entrepreneurs to hold economic talks

YANGON, 20 April—A 81-member delegation led Chairman Mr Payungsak Chartsutipol of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) of Thailand will arrive in Myanmar from 25 to 28 April.

During their visit, the delegation plans to hold talks between Myanmar and Thai entrepreneurs under the arrangement of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at 1.3 pm on 25 April at the office of the federation.

Myanmar entrepreneurs wishing to meet with Thai delegation members on respective subjects of economy may enlist at UMFCI, dialing 213444, 214349, Ext 121 and 122 in person or representative, not later than 24 April.

UMFCI



CASH DONATED TO HOSPITAL: 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 receiving medical treatment at No.1 Military Hospital (700-bed) in Pyin Oo Lwin recently. Commandant of the hospital Brig-Gen Soe Win accepts cash donation.—MNA

Wundwin fire leaves 11 people homeless

WUNDWIN, 20 April—A fire broke out at a house in No. 3 Central Ward of Wundwin starting from wire shock.

One house and one warehouse were destroyed in the fire.

Member of Fire Brigade and local people put out fire with the use of one fire engine from Wundwin, one fire engine from Thedaw, two fire engines from Meiktila, one water tanker from Wundwin

Township Development Affairs Committee and one 12-wheeled private water tanker.

Deputy Commissioner U Sein Oak of Meiktila District General Administration Department, Police Lt-Col Zaw Min Than and Wundwin Township Administrator U Ko Ko Htwe inspected scene on breakout of fire.

The fire left 11 people homeless.

Myanma Alin

TAKE FIRE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

LIBRARY OPENED: Pyinnya Bala Library was put into service in Hsamahse Village of Nawngkhio Township on 26 March. Township Judge U Kar Latt, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Than Than Htwe and Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Nan Myat Myar Ohn cut the ribbon to open the new library building.

MYANMA ALIN



Development of libraries undertaken in Sittway Township

SITTWAY, 20 April—Raising of reading habit was undertaken for ensuring development of village libraries at YaungchiU Library in Amyintkyun Village of Sittway Township on 29 March morning.

Writers U Kaung San (Kyuntha Nga Mann), U Hla Kyaw (Bagyi Kyaw) and U Tun Aung Shwe (Sittway Nyo Thant) talked about advantages of literature and raising of reading habit.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin presented first and second prizes to the winner students in the essay contest, Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Aung Kyaw Min, third prize and consolation prize to the students, and State Minister for Planning and

Economic U Mya Aung, the special prize to the winner in the essay contest.

Advocate-General of the State U Hla Thein and State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htein Lin gave certificates of honour and cash awards to the winners in the poem contest. The State Chief Minister presented K 150,000 and books each to village libraries and the State advocate-general, books.

The Head of Rakhine State Information and Public Relations Department handed over books and publications donated by Myanmar Libraries Foundation to libraries of five villages through the librarian of Amyintkyun Village.

Myanma Alin

MIDWIFERY COURSE CONCLUDES: The midwifery course that lasted six months concluded at the hall of Dalla Township Hospital in Yangon South District on 6 April. Chairman of Dalla Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Aye Thanda Kyaw presents prize to female trainees.—TOWNSHIP HEALTH



Bus line launched in Taunggyi

TAUNGGYI, 20 April—No. 6 bus line was launched at the bus terminal near Aungdawmu Township of Chanmyathazi Ward in Taunggyi on 30 March morning.

Chairman of the All Private Bus Line Committee U Kyaw Than and Chanmyathazi Ward Administrator U Maung Maung Tar cut the ribbon to launch the bus line.

The bus terminal will whistle off one bus per 20 minutes to run the route from

Aungdawmu Monastery-Myoma Market passing Chanmyathazi, Yadana Thiri, Shwedaung and Seinpan wards. Bus fare is set one head per K 150.

The bus terminal will be opened from 6 am to 6 pm daily.

On the opening day, the buses did not collect bus fares from the passengers.

Myanma Alin

Basic first-aid course concludes in Hsahmaw of Mogaung Township

MOGAUNG, 20 April—Conducted by Mogaung Township Red Cross Society of Kachin State, the first-aid course (basic level) No. 2/2012 concluded at Basic Education Primary School No. 1 in Kanyinmyaing Village of Hsahmaw Village-tract in

Mogaung Township of Kachin State on 11 April morning.

Secretary of Township Red Cross Society Dr Kyaw Min, Hsahmaw Village-tract Administrator U Zaw Min and Hsahmaw Station Medical Officer Dr Min Min made speeches.

The Secretary of Township Red Cross Society, the administrator of Hsahmaw Village-tract and the Station medical officer later presented prizes to the outstanding trainees and completion certificates to all trainees.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

CULTIVATION DEMONSTRATED: A demonstration on cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy strain was held on two-acre farmland of farmer U Kyaw Sein in field No. 580 in Hsawktawwa Village-tract of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region on 5 April. Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Thein, Township Administrator U Ko Ko Oo, members of the Township Agricultural Coordination Committee and local farmers view cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy.

MYANMA ALIN



Wetlet Township gets village library

WETLET, 20 April—The opening ceremony of Toe Tet Yay Library was held in Htonbo Village of Shaswe Village-tract in Wetlet Township of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region on 23 March afternoon.

Sagaing Region Minister for Transport U Tin Ngwe, Region Hluttaw representative U Ye Tint and Village Administrator U Tin Thein formally opened the library.

After delivering an

address, the Region Minister donated a set of 21-inch TV and K 100,000 to the library.

The region Hluttaw representative, the township administrator, the staff officer of District Information and Public Relations Department and the head of Township Information and Public Relations Department donated books and publications to the library.

Myanma Alin

UNIFORMS PROVIDED: Cash assistance for Thingyan period and uniforms were provided to staff of General Administration Department in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 10 April. Township Administrator U Zeya Ohn present K 812,000 for cash assistance and uniforms to 36 staff.—MYANMA ALIN





A picture released by the London Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) shows an aerial view of the Olympic Park in London. London Olympic organizers said there was now a real buzz about the 2012 Games as they started the 100-day countdown on Wednesday. — INTERNET

Volkswagen's Audi to invest 2 bln USD in auto plant in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 20 April—German automaker Volkswagen announced Wednesday it will invest 2 billion US dollars in a new plant for its Audi premium-car unit in Mexico. The company plans to build sport utility vehicles in the Latin American country from 2016 and will decide later this year where exactly it will build the plant, it said in a statement released on Wednesday on its website. "Good infrastructure, competitive cost structures and existing free trade agreements played a significant role in the choice of Mexico," Audi Chief Executive Rupert Stadler said.

"Mexico is known for making cars and offers excellent economic conditions for a production plant of Audi," he added. Mexico's Economy Minister Bruno Ferrari said the investment would be worth about 2 billion dollars, but added the timeframe for the plan and the number of jobs it would create were unclear. "This reflects the competitiveness of Mexico, they choose places where they know they have a safe environment," Ferrari made the remarks at the World Economic Forum in the Mexican Pacific coastal city of Puerto Vallarta. "I know they have several places which they are considering."

Meanwhile, Frank Dreves, the production manager of Audi said that the factors taken into account for the location of the plant not only included features of the site or context of logistics, but also the availability of qualified personnel. "The main benefits offered by Mexico are the cost of labor, supported by the Volkswagen plant in Puebla and Guanajuato, and the network of free trade," he said.

Xinhua

Suspected food poisoning on China campus

CHENGDU, 20 April — Health authorities in southwest China's Sichuan Province are probing a suspected food poisoning incident that sickened dozens of university students on Wednesday. Nearly 100 students from Sichuan University sought medication for vomiting and diarrhea Wednesday afternoon, the

provincial health department said in a statement Thursday.

It said the incident was reported on the university's Jiang'an campus near the Shuangliu International Airport in the provincial Capital Chengdu, but did not give details. A student who gave only her family name as Xia said she suspected the food served at the school

cafeteria was to blame.

"School authority have cleared all the privately-run restaurants and snack bars on campus and the school cafeteria is the only place where we can eat," she said in her microblog at Sina's weibo.com. The health bureau said it was investigating the incident.

Xinhua

Singapore urged to invest in New Zealand

SINGAPORE, 20 April—Visiting New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key has said Singapore could invest much more in New Zealand's tourism, services and education sectors, local media reported on Thursday. During his first official visit here on Wednesday, part of a frenetic three-day tour that also included Indonesia, John Key was to drum up new business for New Zealand businessmen, the *Straits Times* reported. Key was in Singapore at the invitation of Prime Minister Lee Hsien

Loong. He called on President Tony Tan Keng Yam at the Istana and attended an official dinner hosted by Lee.

During an interview with the *Straits Times*, Key highlighted potential tie-ups, citing the development of drugs and health supplements. He said New Zealand could provide expertise and products for Singapore to sell to the world. One such tie-up was made last month when New Zealand's Douglas Pharmaceuticals had Singapore-based McPherson's

Consumer Products distribute its line of fish oil pills.

New Zealand businessmen told the media that they have come to rely on Singapore, nestled in the region's heart, as their main gateway to Asia.

The prime minister considers Singapore's role in opening doors for New Zealand regionally as 'critically important' because booming Asia is 'absolutely critical and integral' to his country's future growth.

Xinhua

London enters final straight for 2012 Games

LONDON, 20 April — London entered the final straight in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics during a wet and windy spring day on Wednesday with celebrations across the world to mark the 100 days' countdown to the Games. The day began at Kew Gardens where London organizing committee chairman Sebastian Coe helped plant one of 40 oak trees which will be installed around the country to recognise Britain's role in the birth of the modern Olympic movement.

The trees were grown from acorns taken from an oak planted in 1890 by the founder of the Games, French aristocrat Baron Pierre de Coubertin, at the Much Wenlock Games in the

county of Shropshire. Twenty thousand flowers in the shape and colour of the five Olympic rings were revealed and a giant sandcastle, also featuring the rings, has been built at Weymouth and Portland, venue for the sailing events. More than 250 guardsmen formed the figure 100 at the Horse Guards Parade where the beach volleyball will be staged.

"These celebration are actually being marked around the globe today," Coe told a news conference. "From Times Square in New York through to Palestine, New Zealand and Socchi. 'If ever I needed reminding that we are delivering a Games for the whole world, it's actually been on my international engagement programme over

the last few months.

"It's taken me effectively to five continents. I have rarely witnessed the level of



Olympic rings made up of 25,000 flowers are seen at Kew Gardens in London on 18 April, 2012. — INTERNET

excitement amongst national Olympic committee, amongst the media and certainly amongst the elite level competitors that are going to come and dignify our Games in 100 days' time." Unsurprisingly, the organising committee and government ministers remained resolutely upbeat about the third Games to be hosted by London following the 1908 and 1948 editions. — Reuters

Barclaycard unveils mini, stick-on credit card

LONDON, 20 April — The latest salvo in the battle to launch a digital wallet has been unveiled - with a mini, stick-on credit card. Barclaycard is hoping that UK customers attach the extra card to their mobile phones and use them at "contactless"

terminals for everyday purchases. This wave-and-pay technology has been in place for a few years. It allows cardholders to spend up to £15 at certain stores, without entering a Pin. However, the latest product, which will be available to millions of



The PayTag is waved over a contactless terminal to register payment. — INTERNET

Barclaycard customers by the end of the year, remains some way short of interactive banking on a mobile phone.

The Barclaycard PayTag is being offered to a group of customers who will receive letters in the coming days. It is one third of the size of a standard credit card, with a sticky reverse side. It will be sent without charge to customers who request it and will come in addition to their regular credit card.

The credit card provider believes that people should stick it to the back of their mobile phone handset because most adults carry their phone with them at all times. Cardholders may choose to attach it to their wallet or a key ring, instead.

Barclaycard's Tom Gregory said that the new product gave anyone the opportunity to use a credit card stuck to their phone, without having to upgrade their mobile. However, the implication is that a big take-up would eventually allow Barclaycard to approach mobile phone manufacturers with evidence that inserting a payment chip in a handset would be popular. So far, this technology is available to some Barclaycard customers with certain Orange phones in the UK, but it has not yet taken off as it has in other countries such as Japan. David Chan, chief executive of Barclaycard Consumer Europe, said he wanted the product to "open people's eyes to mobile payments".

Internet

Warning benefit changes may see fewer free school meals

LONDON, 20 April — Plans to simplify the welfare system may mean thousands of England's poorest children lose their entitlement to free school meals, a charity has warned. The meals are linked to low-income benefits that are among those merging into a single Universal Credit in 2013. In a report, the Children's Society said ministers were considering an income cap for eligibility

that could leave 120,000 families worse off. The government said it was determined to ensure no needy child misses out. The Children's Society estimated that it would cost £500m to extend free school meals to all families on Universal Credit.

It said ministers were instead considering limiting it to households with earnings below a certain

level, thought to be about £145 a week. The charity said that would create a benefit cliff-edge that could see 120,000 families worse off if they worked longer or earned more. The government has said people should always better off in work than on welfare. The Children's Society's campaign for childhood director, Elaine Hindal, said the introduction of a new system of entitlement was a chance to increase the availability of free school meals.

"The government has a unique opportunity to extend free school meals to all low-income working families, so that no child living in poverty misses out. 'This would be in line with the government's aim to make work pay by paving the way for many families to return to employment and help lift them out of poverty.'"

Internet



The Children's Society is calling for free school meals to be extended to all children living in poverty in England. — INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.4.2012 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Huawei announces global availability of the Ascend P1 smartphone

BEIJING, 20 April—Huawei, a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider, today announced that the Huawei Ascend P1 will be available in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Australia through operators and retailers by May 2012, in Latin America from June 2012 and in Europe from summer, with availability in other markets to follow.

"The global availability of the Ascend P1, which combines smart features and a sexy design, represents a significant milestone for Huawei Device. We are sending strong signals of our intention to transform into a consumer-facing brand and extend our market leadership globally by strengthening our range of flagship products. We are also expanding our sales and distribution channels to move beyond a focus on

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Huawei announces global availability of the Ascend P1 smartphone. INTERNET

operators," said Richard Yu, Chairman of Huawei Device.

The Ascend P1 is beauty meets brains – proof that technology and good looks can go hand-in-hand. It features a dual-core 1.5GHz TI OMAP 4460 Cortex-A9 processor and measures 7.69mm thin and 64.8 mm long, providing a very comfortable grip.

Internet

83-year-old model Daphne Selfe says she's never had cosmetic surgery



83-year-old model Daphne Selfe.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 20 April—83-year-old model Daphne Selfe is making headlines this week for her age-defying beauty. But unlike so many of

her younger contemporaries, Selfe says she has never taken part in any cosmetic surgery. "I've never had anything done to my face," she told the *Daily Mail*. "Not that poison, not a facelift. I think it's a waste of money. Anyway, I couldn't afford it!" As part of a marketing campaign, Selfe recently agreed to pose in a bra and corset ensemble first made famous by Madonna during her 1990 Blonde Ambition tour.

Selfe joked that the replica outfit is "terribly unforgiving."

"I thought they might have done a bit of airbrushing!" she told the paper. "My body is OK when I lie down, it settles rather. But, hey, what the hell, it was all for a good cause." Selfe took the photo for Oxfam's Big Bra Hunt, which is gathering bra donations to send to women in developing countries who might not otherwise be able to afford or access them. The *Daily Mail* says the first shipment of donated bras will be sent to Senegal, West Africa. The group hopes to collect more

than 1 million bras.

And despite all of the positive attention her new photograph has received, Selfe says she wouldn't want to be a full-time model today, though she jokingly recalls some of her own past experiences in the industry, when her modeling career first began in the 1950s. "I started off modeling fur, which in those days wasn't controversial. I did mainly work as a house model, and a few advertisements," she said.

Internet

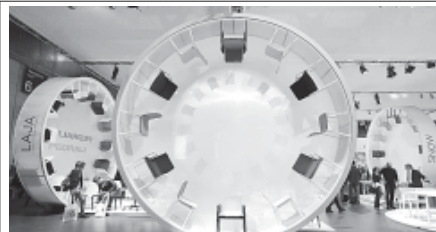
More exercises reduce Alzheimer's disease risk

BEIJING, 20 April—More daily exercises, even doing housework, can reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, according to a new study by the US National Institute on Aging as quoted by media reports on Thursday. The study published in the journal *Neurology* involved 716 subjects without dementia who participated in the Rush Memory and Aging Project, a prospective, observational cohort study.

The subjects were tracked for about four years, during which 71 people developed Alzheimer's

disease, while others were free from the disease. Results showed that the 10 percent of those who got the least exercise were 2.3 times more likely to get the disease compared with the 10 percent of those who got the most exercise. A lot of researches have suggested that people who are not in the habit of doing exercises are more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease.

In a linear mixed-effect model, the level of total daily physical activity was associated with the rate of global cognitive decline, the study showed.—*Xinhua*



People visit the International Furniture Fair 2012 during the Milan Design Week in Milan, northern Italy, on 18 April, 2012. — XINHUA

Four rhino horn smugglers arrested in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 20 April—The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) of Nepal Police has rounded up four smugglers involved in the trading of body parts of endangered wild animals. The arrests were made on the basis

of a tip-off by police intelligence on Wednesday. It is the second seizure of a rhino horn made by the CIB in Hyangja, Kaski, in less than a week.

CIB was quoted by Thursday's *The Himalayan*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/V/04/12)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/V/04/12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) 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 HUB SHIPPING
SDN-BHD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

ASML's lumpy chip equipment orders cloud outlook

AMSTERDAM, 20 April—The world's leading chip equipment maker ASML expects steady sales, driven by demand for hot consumer gadgets such as smartphones and tablets, but said it was hard to predict exactly when orders would arrive. The Dutch company declined to give an orders outlook on Wednesday, disappointing some investors who had recently pushed the stock to a 11.5-year high.

As the world's largest maker of semiconductor lithography machines, ASML is seen as a barometer for the tech sector, and investors had been expecting it to give guidance on orders.



ASML's logo is seen on the day of the presentation of the 2011 fourth quarter and annual results in Veldhoven on 18 January, 2012.—REUTERS

ASML, which competes with Japanese groups Canon and Nikon, said it expects steady sales over the next six to nine months. But a shift to fewer, bigger customers had made it hard to predict exactly when orders would be made.

"The firm reiterated guidance for first-half revenues of 2.4 billion euros and also said that third-quarter sales should be stable at first-half levels – good as bears saw some deceleration in the second half," Jefferies Intl analysts said in a note.

ASML's customers, which include Samsung Electronics, Taipei Semiconductor Manufacturing (TSMC) and Intel Corp, tend to "place big orders of a couple of hundred millions," Peter Wennink, chief financial officer, said in a webcast interview. "We have to deal with fewer but bigger customers over the last couple of years, and those customers place bigger but lumpier orders," Wennink said.

Shares in ASML, whose machines map out electronic circuits on silicon wafers, were down 3.9 percent at 36.425 euros at 1034 GMT, off an 11.5-year high of 38.3 euros hit on 2 April.—*Reuters*

If convicted under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973, each will be liable to prison sentence of up to 15 years and a fine of up to 100,000 Nepali rupees (about 1200 US dollars) for poaching and trading in body parts of endangered wild animals.—*Xinhua*

6-year-old girl handcuffed by police over 'tantrum'

It's been quite the day for 6-year-olds in the news. Earlier, we told you about the courageous, 6-year-old Texas boy who has already raised \$10,000 for his Dad's cancer treatment.

In less positive news, a 6-year-old girl in Georgia was handcuffed by police and charged with assault after throwing a "tantrum" in her elementary school. Local tv affiliate 13WMAZ reports that Salectia Johnson, who is in kindergarten, was detained by police after her alleged outburst.

"Our policy is that any detainee transported to our station in a patrol vehicle is to be handcuffed in the back. There is no

age discrimination on that rule," Milledgeville Chief of Police Dray Swicord, told the station.

Swicord said the officer who handcuffed Johnson is not facing an investigation over his actions.

Swicord added that Johnson was handcuffed for her safety as well as the safety of others. She was taken to the principal's office after pushing two other students, according to a police report.

"The student was never placed in a holding cell or jail cell and the student's safety was of the utmost importance," Swicord said.



6-year-old Salectia Johnson was handcuffed by police over alleged 'tantrum'. In this 16 April, 2012 image made from video and provided by WMAZ-13 TV, kindergarten Salectia Johnson, 6, is shown at her home near Milledgeville, Ga.—INTERNET

Dutch bug cookbook launched to stir taste for insects

Need more protein in your diet? Try adding worms to your chocolate muffin recipe mix, or spice up a mushroom risotto with a sprinkling of grasshoppers.

"The Insect Cookbook", which comes out on Tuesday and is written in Dutch, contains these and other unusual recipes and is intended to promote insects as a source of protein. "I see this as the next step towards the introduction of insects on restaurant menus in the Netherlands. I also expect people to buy the book and start cooking with insects at home," said Marcel Dicke, a professor at Wageningen University which specializes in food and food production.

To mark the book launch in Wageningen, specialist insect chef Henk van Gurp will try to set a record for cooking the world's biggest grasshopper pie.

Research by scientists at the university showed that insects could provide the best source of protein to meet the needs of a rising population. Currently, 70 percent of agricultural land is used for livestock production.



A caramelized locust is used to decorate a cake made of insects at the University of Wageningen on 17 April, 2012.

Dog rescued from Seattle-area mountain



A French terrier had to be lowered by ropes from the summit of Mount Si, a peak near Seattle, after the animal went off trail, police said. The terrier, Ana, spent Sunday night on top of the still snow-covered mountain, KING-TV reported.

Mount Si, 4,167 feet above sea level, is a popular hiking spot in the Seattle-Tacoma Region. The

mountain has a rocky summit with no trail known as the Haystack. The owner called the King County Sheriff's Office late Sunday afternoon to report that her dog, apparently spooked by something, had raced 200 feet up the Haystack and refused to descend, the report said. The Washington State Animal Rescue Team responded but decided it was

too late to bring the dog down safely that night.

In the morning, a Seattle Mountain Rescue team climbed the peak, secured Ana in a harness and lowered her from the mountain. "These rescue teams are amazing," the owner said. "These people drop whatever they are doing to volunteer their time to save humans and animals alike."

Tom Petty gets guitars back, security guard arrested

LOS ANGELES, 20 April—The waiting might have been the hardest part, but rockers Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers have gotten back the missing guitars they were seeking and police said on Tuesday a security guard has been arrested on suspicion of stealing the instruments.

The five guitars—which included Petty's 1967, 12-string Rickenbacker made of

maple—were reported stolen on Thursday from a sound studio in Culver City, west of Los Angeles, and the band announced it would pay a \$7,500 reward for information leading to their recovery.

Daryl Washington, a 51-year-old security guard at the studio, was arrested on Monday and booked on suspicion of grand theft, police said. Detectives got a tip one of the guitars was sold

to a Hollywood pawn shop, police said. "I am extremely grateful to the Culver City Police Department for a job well done and touched by the outpouring of good wishes and concern from our fans and friends," Petty wrote on his Facebook page.

It was not immediately clear if anyone would collect the \$7,500 no-questions asked reward for the return of the guitars.—REUTERS



Singer Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers perform during the half time show of the NFL's Super Bowl XLII football game between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants in Glendale, Arizona, on 3 February, 2008.—REUTERS

Author Rowling writing Harry Potter encyclopedia

LONDON, 20 April—Author JK Rowling is working on a Harry Potter encyclopedia, and will donate the royalties to charity, she has said on her website.

Four years ago the British writer took an independent US publisher to court to stop its plans for a reference book on the world of the fictional boy wizard, saying it constituted a "rip off" of her work.

On her re-vamped website, Rowling addressed the question of a Harry Potter encyclopedia in a "frequently asked questions and rumors" link.

"For a long time I have been promising an encyclopedia of Harry's world, and I have started work on this now," said the 46-year-old, whose announcements related to Harry Potter are closely followed by millions of fans.

"Some of it forms the new content in Pottermore."

Pottermore, a free website allowing visitors to navigate the stories and discover new content not in the original books, is one of several Potter spin-offs following the completion of the seven-novel series.

The novels have sold more than 400 million copies worldwide and spawned a hit eight-movie film franchise that have helped turn Rowling into the world's most successful author.

Reuters



Cast member Robert Downey Jr and his wife Susan pose at the premiere of the movie 'Iron Man 2' at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California on 26 April, 2010. REUTERS

Iron Man 3 to be co-produced in China

HONG KONG, 20 April—The next "Iron Man" film will be co-produced in China under a joint agreement between Walt Disney Co, Marvel Studios and DMG Entertainment, the latest in a series of tie-ups between Hollywood and China where movie-going is growing fast. DMG—a Chinese entertainment and marketing group—will invest in Iron Man 3, manage the Chinese co-production process and jointly produce the film in China. Along with Disney's China unit, it will also distribute the film in China, the companies said on Monday.

Iron Man 3 will star Robert Downey Jr, Gwyneth Paltrow and Don Cheadle. It will be released in the United States on 3 May, 2013. Monday's announcement comes after China in February agreed to allow in more foreign films and reflects the fast-growing Chinese middle class spending more money in theaters and less on pirated movies. Last week Disney said it would work with China's Ministry of Culture and Tencent Holdings to promote the animation industry in China, while Dreamworks Animation SKG Inc in February said it would build a studio in Shanghai as part of a joint venture with some of China's biggest media companies.—Reuters

Court upholds convictions in Stamos extortion plot

LOS ANGELES, 20 April—An appeals court on Monday upheld the convictions and sentences of a Michigan couple charged with trying to extort \$680,000 from actor John Stamos.

Allison Coss and Scott Sippola were convicted in 2010 of concocting an elaborate plot to extort money from Stamos by threatening to release pictures of him at a party where there were strippers and cocaine. The defendants were each sentenced to four years in prison.

Coss and Sippola, who were in a relationship at the time, challenged their convictions, claiming the extortion law was vague and therefore unconstitutional. They argued that the statute should only criminalize threats to commit unlawful acts, not just wrongful acts.

Reuters

James Bond stuntman crashes in Istanbul bazaar



Director Sam Mendes (L) and actor Daniel Craig (R) pose with producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson (2nd L) during a photocall to launch the start of production of the new James Bond film 'Skyfall' at a restaurant in London on 3 November, 2011.—REUTERS

ISTANBUL, 20 April—A stuntman in the new James Bond film "Skyfall" now shooting

in Istanbul lost control of his motorcycle and smashed into the window of a 330-year-old shop in the city's 15th-century Grand Bazaar, Turkish media said on Monday.

The stuntman swerved to avoid hitting extras while careering through the Grand Bazaar at high speed, the NTV news channel said, but then crashed into the jewellery shop and smashed its crystal glass window.

"It is very nice for the Grand Bazaar to be chosen as a location for shooting this kind of movie. But the bazaar's administration... didn't notify us the shooting would be like this," said Mete Boybeyi, the owner of the shop which once served members of the Ottoman court from the nearby palace.

Reuters



Actor and musician John Stamos poses at the 2012 MusiCares Person of the Year tribute honoring Paul McCartney in Los Angeles on 10 February, 2012. REUTERS



JK Rowling, author of Harry Potter, arrives for a ceremony to mark the start of building work on a research clinic, at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland on 7 November, 2011.—REUTERS

Manchester United top Forbes money list

Forbes rates six Barclays Premier League sides in the top 20 most valuable clubs

LONDON, 20 April — Manchester United have been rated as the world's most valuable football club as Premier League sides took six of the top 13 places in the new Forbes valuation list. United are valued at £1.4bn by Forbes magazine, which means they retain the number one rating for the eighth year in a row.

Manchester United and Liverpool are both in the top 20 of the world's most valuable clubs.—INTERNET



Top 20 clubs in the Forbes Football Valuation League

1. Manchester United (£1.4bn)
2. Real Madrid (£1.17bn)
3. FC Barcelona (£814m)
4. Arsenal (£805m)
5. Bayern Munich (£769m)
6. AC Milan (£616m)
7. Chelsea (£474m)
8. Liverpool (£386m)
9. Juventus (£368m)
10. Schalke 04 (£365m)
11. Tottenham Hotspur (£352m)
12. Internazionale (£305m)
13. Manchester City (£276m)
14. Borussia Dortmund (£245m)
15. Olympique Lyonnais (£240m)
16. Hamburger SV (£221m)
17. AS Roma (£220m)
18. Olympique de Marseille (£217m)
19. Valencia (£179m)
20. Napoli (£176m)

Arsenal are fourth with a value of £805m with Chelsea (£474m) seventh and Liverpool (£386m) in eighth. Tottenham Hotspur (£352m) are in 11th with Manchester City (£276m) in 13th.

The Barclays Premier League has a collective rights selling model and an equitable distribution of broadcast revenues, which perhaps explains why the English clubs have the largest representation in the top-20 with six clubs, followed by Italy (five), Germany (four), Spain (three) and France (two). Forbes says Manchester United, the 12-time Barclays Premier League champions, are worth 20% more than last year and are ranked as the most valuable team in any sport in the world.

They are worth £240m

more than baseball's New York Yankees and the American Football side Dallas Cowboys from the National Football League. Forbes executive editor Mike Ozanian said: "Manchester United's global fan base of some 330 million also helps makes it the most valuable team in any sport." The report stated that the five teams that were worth at least £623m (\$1bn), Manchester United, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Arsenal and Bayern Munich, have capitalized on having strong brands.

"Not only do these teams reap direct revenue from finishing near the top of their domestic leagues and tournament competition, but they also generate rich sponsorship and merchandise deals from the powerful brands they have built through success on the pitch over time," added Ozanian. Forbes start to formulate their valuations by using the Deloitte Football Money League report, which ranks clubs by revenue generation, before conducting their own research which includes "reviewing financial documents and speaking to sports bankers, to derive operating income, debt and values for each team."—Internet

Barcelona confident of Champions League turnaround

MADRID, 20 April — Lady luck was not smiling on profligate Barcelona in Wednesday's 1-0 Champions League defeat at Chelsea but the holders expressed confidence they could turn the semi-final around in the second leg at their daunting Nou Camp arena on Tuesday. The English Premier League side turned in a gritty performance to deny the Spanish champions and managed to keep World Player of the Year and competition top scorer Lionel Messi quiet to boost their chances of making next month's final.

A large slice of good fortune also helped inflict only a third defeat this season on Barca, who dominated possession, hit the bar and the post and had a Cesc Fabregas effort cleared off the line by Ashley Cole. Barca coach Pep Guardiola, whose side host

bitter rivals and fellow Champions League semi-finalists Real Madrid in La Liga on Saturday, acknowledged that Chelsea, chasing a first European crown, were now favourites to progress. However, he said recovering from the one-goal deficit and eliminating the Londoners was a "great challenge" he and his players were happy to accept.

Reuters

FIFA appoints 84 officials for London Olympic football

GENEVA, 20 April — The FIFA Referees Committee has confirmed on Thursday the appointment of 84 officials from 36 countries to officiate at the 2012 London Olympic football tournaments. For the men's competition, 16 referees and 32 assistant referees have been selected from FIFA's six confederations, while for the women's tournament, 12 referees and 24 assistant referees will be on duty, according to the FIFA website.

It said that the London 2012 represents the first step on the road to the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil for the male referees. FIFA's head of Women's Refereeing Sonia Denoncourt said that the bulk of the female referees who have been appointed for the 2012 Olympic Games are familiar faces from last summer's FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany and are at the top of their profession.

Xinhua



Matt Every, seeking a first tour victory, on Thursday had nine birdies in his flawless round on the demanding par-72 TPC San Antonio track and was three strokes in front of fellow American Hunter Haas.—INTERNET

Course record gives Every PGA Texas Open lead

SAN ANTONIO, 20 April — Matt Every fired a course-record nine-under par 63 to seize a three-shot lead after the first round of the US PGA Tour's \$6.2 million Texas Open. Every, seeking a first tour victory, on Thursday had nine birdies in his flawless round on the demanding par-72 TPC San Antonio track and was three strokes in front of fellow American Hunter Haas. Every's sparkling round vindicated his decision to forego coaches and limit his practice time.

He parted with his swing instructor a fortnight ago, and said he was taking a less-is-more approach to his tournament preparation. "Lately I've been trying to do as little as possible with everything involved with golf," Every said. "If I'm

hitting bad in the range I won't even work out — I'll quit and go home. And it's been working. It has. I'm playing better golf because of it."

He said watching others tweak their games in search of better scores had only made him more sure of his decision. "I see the same guys tinkering with their swings, and they spend all day on Tuesday and Wednesday practising, and I think, 'God, I'm glad I'm not one of these guys,'" Every said. "And I'm sticking to that. When I get on the course, I'm more interested in playing golf than my golf swing." Every is in the lead for the first time since January, when he shared the lead going into the final round of the Sony Open.

Internet

Serena ends foreign exile for Olympic dream

NEW YORK, 20 April — Serena Williams' bid to win a first Olympic Games gold medal in singles has brought her to this European outpost of world tennis for her first Fed Cup assignment on foreign soil in 13 years. The 13-time Grand Slam champion already owns doubles gold achieved with sister Venus at the 2000 Sydney Games and 2008 in Beijing.

A singles title has eluded her and left her with a sense of unfinished business since losing to eventual Olympic champion Elena Dementieva in the quarter-finals in Beijing. In normal circumstances, Williams would be an automatic selection for the London Olympics, but rules state that a player must make themselves available for at least two Fed Cup ties in a four-year spell to be eligible.

Until this year, however, Williams hadn't played Fed



Serena Williams' bid to win a first Olympic Games gold medal in singles has brought her to her first Fed Cup assignment on foreign soil in 13 years.—INTERNET

Grief-stricken Djokovic into Monte Carlo quarters

MONACO, 20 April — Novak Djokovic dropped to a crouch, his hands on his knees. He then appeared to wipe away tears with his forearm before pointing with both hands to the sky. Alexandr Dolgoplov, his beaten opponent, stood at the net and applauded. Djokovic had just finished his

third-round match at Monte Carlo Masters on Thursday, hours after learning of his grandfather's death. He skipped the post-match news conference, with the ATP saying he "just felt totally exhausted physically, mentally and emotionally."

Djokovic defeated Dolgoplov 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, winning on his first match point. He reached the quarterfinals along with Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Tomas Berdych and Gilles Simon. Nadal, the seven-time defending champion, followed Djokovic on court and routed Mikhail Kukushkin

6-1, 6-1. The Spaniard conceded only six points on his serve and broke the Kazakh qualifier five times. Nadal will next face Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka, who defeated eighth-seeded Nicolas Pietrangeli of Spain 6-3, 6-3.

Third-seeded Andy Murray advanced after Julien Benneteau of France injured his ankle and quit near the end of a tight first set with the score 6-5. He said later he had a fractured right elbow and sprained right ankle. The top-ranked Djokovic seemed preoccupied as he walked onto center court, his head down.

Internet



Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts after defeating Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov during their match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, on 19 April, 2012.—INTERNET

President U Thein Sein leaves for Japan to attend 4th Japan-Mekong Summit, to pay goodwill visit to Japan



A Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein being seen off by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and officials at Nay Pyi Taw Airport on their departure for Japan to attend 4th Japan-Mekong Summit to be held in Tokyo of Japan and to pay goodwill visit to Japan.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, accompanied by members of the Myanmar delegation, left here by special flight at 9 am yesterday to attend the fourth Japan-Mekong Summit to be held in Tokyo of Japan and to pay a goodwill visit to Japan.

Members of the Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army)

General Soe Win, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, Union Minister at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, departmental officials and Minister-

Counsellor/Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Ichiro Maruyama of Japanese Embassy and embassy officials.

President U Thein Sein was accompanied by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and departmental officials.—MNA

Hluttaw representatives informed to contact Hluttaw Office in Nay Pyi Taw, not later than 22 April

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—The third regular sessions of the respective Hluttaws will continue at the meeting rooms of the Hluttaw complex, here, on 23 April 2012 (Monday). The Hluttaw representatives have

been informed to contact the Hluttaw Office, Office No. 20, here, not later than 22 April.

MNA

Myanmar women's volleyball team leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 20 April—The Myanmar selected women's volleyball team led by U Thein Win (GM of Asia World Co Ltd) left here by air on 10 April to take part in the 2012 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship to be held in Nakhonratchasima of Thailand from 21 to 29 April.

The team comprises Coach U Thein Swe, Assistant Coach U Chan Tun Aung, Trainer U Kyaw Soe Aung, players Nilar Aye, Moe Moe San, Phyu Phyu Wai, Aye Nanda Kyaw, Moh Moh Myint, Thi Thi Aung, Khin Thet Wai, Yi Yi Lwin, Cho Cho Win, Su Myat Mon and San San Htay.

Altogether 10 women's volleyball teams will participate in the championship. Myanmar will play against Vietnam in the debut tomorrow.

MNA

Significant Day Temperature (20-4-2012)

Chauk	(46°C)
Monywa	(45°C)
Myingyan	(45°C)



Libya's players pose for a photograph before their African Cup of Nations Group A soccer match against Senegal at Estadio de Bata "Bata Stadium", in Bata on 29 January, 2012.—REUTERS

Libya to play Cameroon World Cup tie at neutral venue

JOHANNESBURG, 20 April—Libya's opening home match in the World Cup qualifiers against Cameroon will be played at a neutral venue and behind closed doors, FIFA said on Friday.

The 10 June game will be hosted in Sfax in neighbouring Tunisia.

Tunisia has not allowed spectators to watch all but a handful of matches since the uprising in the country in January last year,

which heralded the start of the Arab Spring.

Controlled numbers of supporters have been allowed to attend games in African competitions but league matches are all played behind closed doors because officials fear violence in the stands. There has been no organised football in Libya since March 2011, when the uprising against Muammar Gaddafi's regime began.

Libya played two of their 2012 African Nations

Cup qualifiers at neutral venues in Egypt and Mali but despite losing home advantage and having their team ravaged by the strife, they reached the finals, which were held in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon in January. Libya's last home match was in October 2010 when they beat Zambia. They begin their 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign with an away game against Togo on 3 June.

Reuters