

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XX, Number 2

2nd Waxing of Kason 1374 ME

Sunday, 22 April, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union

* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity

* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Union Minister for Information and for Culture attends merit-sharing ceremony for 19 renovated Thudhamma Rest Houses in Mandalay

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and congregation sharing merits gained at renovation of 19 Thudhamma Rest Houses with contributions of people in Mandalay.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan attended a merit-sharing ceremony for 19 Thudhamma Rest Houses renovated with cash contributions of public wellwishers under the aegis of the Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department, held at Rest House No.15 of Thudhamma Rest House Stall at the foot of Mandalay Hill in Upoktaw Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region, this morning.

First, the Union Minister together with Director-General of the department U Kyaw Oo Lwin and officials inspected the repairing and renovation of the 19 rest houses, the stones inscriptions featuring donors, maintenance of

paintings depicting Jataka. He then instructed officials to maintain the rest houses without harming the ancient original styles and cordially greeted the rest house donors.

Next, the Union Minister attended the merit-sharing ceremony. Then, the congregation received the Five Precepts from State Ovadacariya Moehti Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Nana and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Director-General U Kyaw Oo Lwin supplicated on the purpose of renovation tasks. The Union Minister presented offertories to the Myataung Kyaungtaik Shwe Wah Win Monastery Sayadaw. Region Minister U Phone Zaw Han and officials also donated alms to the Sayadaws

and members of the Sangha.

Shwe Wah Win Monastery Sayadaw delivered Ovada on systematic maintenance of the 19 Thudhamma Rest Houses and maintenance and safeguarding of ancient cultural heritages across the country. Then, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing the merits gained. After the ceremony, the Union Minister and the congregation offered day's meals to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

The ceremony was also attended by State Ovadacariya Shwegyin Sangha Raja Mandalay Region Maha Withokdhayon Taikthit Waso Monastery Sayadaw (See Page 8)

Value-added crops help farmers get increased income

Byline: Pe Htun Zaw (Yesagyo)
Photos: Pe Htun Lu

In its drive for development of market economy, the government has been encouraging farmers to grow whatever

profitable to them at a time when restrictions are relaxed. Growing value-added crops, rural regions have witnessed betterment

in socio-economic life. I went to ChaungU of Monywa District in Sagaing Region for third time as I have heard that its GDP is

increasing.

I went to the office of ChaungU Agriculture Department and met township manager U Saw Linn who took me to the township General Administration Department to introduce me to township administrator U Phyto Min Htaik. He explained me eight-point rural development and poverty alleviation scheme of the township. He said that successful cultivation of value-added crops, the main contributor to agricultural development has brought about improvement in socio-economic of farmers, facilitating the GDP growth of the township. He added that those value-added

crops were once on the lists of vegetables and now farmers had been permitted to grow economically viable crops for their benefits.

I then proceeded to crop plantations in company with township manager U Saw Linn, plantation in-charges, and senior clerk U Tin Thaung from the township GAD.

The plain around Minte and Min Khaung villages of Magyikwa Village-tract was like an ocean of muskmelon which stretches to the horizon.

Muskmelon plantations were bustling with those spraying pesticides, broadcasting fertilizer, weeding, plucking, packaging, and loading into trucks amidst

the music from FM radios. Amazed by such a huge number of human bees, I asked village administrator U Than Win standing by me about those people and he said there were over 4000 workers from 80 villages in the township apart from the locals. I was overjoyed to see business opportunities there not only for locals but also for other villagers.

According to township manager U Saw Linn, 8000 muskmelon plants are grown on an acre of land and the net profit is K 2,217,150 for an acre. It is learnt that a farmer from Magyikwa Village-tract run at least five up to 20, 30 acres.

(See Page 8)



Photo shows thriving plantations stretching to the horizon.

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 22 April, 2012

New Year's resolution

Thingyan has marked the end of old year and birth of new one on Myanmar calendar. It is usual that everyone is looking forward to better days this particular time of year. But this year, we have every reason to anticipate the hopeful future ahead of us.

As Thingyan news dominated the dailies, less was mentioned about the progress of peace negotiations between the incumbent government and national race armed groups. The recent peace talks between region level peacemaking group and KNU peace negotiators have brought about KNU liaison office in Kyaukkyi, Toungoo District, Bago Region, which was followed by its another office for Myeik/Dawei District and Brigade-4.

An agreement was reached to call a truce and open a liaison office between Sagaing Region peacemaking group and the NSCN (K) peacemaking team while the Union level peacemaking group and peace negotiators from New Mon State Party were seeking for nationwide ceasefire and further mutual understanding.

KIA members, totaling 42, who said they were tired of fighting meaningless war, exchanged arms for peace on 16 and 17 April. However, eternal peace in Kachin State is still a pipedream for the nationalities there due to some hard-line KIO/KIA leaders in spite of three rounds of peace talks between Union level peacemaking group and the KIO/KIA.

Thingyan is celebrated for one reason to wash off the sins of old year and for another to ease the intense heat of midsummer. It is the public hope to put out the remaining flame of armed insurgencies to which the sole extinguisher is of mutual trust.

Myanmar has been the nest of diverse national races for years countable by the thousand. This long history has mixed the blood of different national brethren so well that we as descendants of our forefathers are of mixed race, finding ourselves to be such close relatives inseparably tied.

We took up arms unanimously to salvage our country from the hands of fascists and colonialists. Arms must be used to protect the country and not to kill or harm kith and kin. A soldier takes arms in the service of the nation and its people but not for personal gains or hatred. When the lips are beaten, no less are the teeth hurt. We are friends but not foes; we are brothers but not adversaries. We want peace for ourselves and also for our families and friends who spread across the nation.

Myanmar energy delegation visits Belarus

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—At the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay visited Belarus from 9 to 12 April to discuss opportunities for cooperation in oil and natural gas exploration between the two countries.

The Union Minister held talks with Prime Minister of Belarus Mr Mikhail Myasnikovich at the office of the prime minister in Minsk over promoting bilateral friendship and cooperation in the energy sector.

The Myanmar delegation visited Fidemash Company which produces oilfield equipment.

On way from Minsk to Gomel, the delegation observed selling of engine oil, petrol and gasoline at a filling station of Belorusneft Company.

On 10 April, the delegation visited Rechitsa Oil Field and exploration of oil and gas of Belorusneft Company in Rechitsa and observed cementing and coiled tubing and machinery installed at Fracturing Fleet at Main Cementing Department, hydraulic

fracturing operation, side track well drilling and drilling oil wells with the drillmec jointly produced by Italy and Belarus.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation observed services and capacity of Belorusneft



Union Energy Minister U Than Htay holds talks with Prime Minister of Belarus Mr Mikhail Myasnikovich.—MNA

Company at its Recreation and Business Centre.

On 11 April, they visited Biprosicomic Camp and observed demonstration of seismic works and machinery for seismic works.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Seismotechnika Company and viewed

production of seismic equipment and laboratory works for R&D petroleum of Belorusneft Company.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister called on Mr Vitor I Pilipets, Governor of Gomel, in Gomel and attended a ceremony to sign a minute of the meeting

between the Energy Planning Department of the Ministry of Energy of Myanmar and Belorusneft Company.

After the ceremony, the Union Minister replied the questions of journalists. The Myanmar delegation arrived back home on 14 April.

MNA

Respects paid to older persons in Taunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—The 15th ceremony to pay respects to older persons was held at the city hall in Taunggyi on 17 April afternoon.

Secretary of Shan State Government U Khin Maung Than explained matters related to the respect-paying ceremony.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and wife Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt and party paid respects to the older persons and presented cash assistance to them.

U Thaung Hlaing of 88 years old from Yadana Thiri Ward gave words of advice.

A total of 262 older persons attended the ceremony.

After that, the State Chief Minister and wife, state ministers and departmental officials attended the second fish releasing ceremony and released fish into Myakantha Lake.

MNA



Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat presents cash to aged persons.

MNA

Mine blast kills one in Muse

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—A mine blast occurred in 105th-mile trade zone in Muse of Shan State, killing a staff leaving no injured.

U Kyi Tun, assistant immigration officer was the victim of the mine blast planted by insurgents. As he was discharging his duties at van inspection gate at the exit to Lashio from Muse 105th-mile trade zone in Muse Township at 5.20 am yesterday, a local hand-made time bomb exploded four feet behind him underground, killing him on the spot. But no other staff and travelers

were wounded from the blast. Eight batteries of Power brand, white-coloured switch of Wokee and brand ball bearings were seized from the scene and police are investigating into the case.

As the insurgents have been committing subversive acts including mine attacks at public places to kill and panic the innocent people, the public is to report to the personnel concerned in case something suspicious is found, warned the authorities concerned.

MNA

Self-reliant concrete roads commissioned in Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 21 April—A ceremony to inaugurate new self-reliant concrete roads was held in conjunction with the ceremony to drive stakes for construction of the jetty on 14th street in Myoma Ward 6 in Mawlamyinegyun of Labutta District in Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

Township Administrator U Htay Maung explained the purpose of construction for the new concrete roads and jetty.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Transport U Than Tun, Region Minister for Social Affairs

U San Maung, wellwishers U Hla Shwe and U Win Kyaing formally opened the new concrete roads.

After that, the wellwishers donated cash to the fund for construction of the jetty to be built at the corner of Maha Bandoola 1st Street and 15th road in Mawlamyinegyun.

The region ministers, Director of Region Development Affairs Committee U Aung Min Naing and Deputy Commissioner U Kan Win of District General Administration Department drove stakes for construction of the jetty.—MNA



Map of Mexico locating site of road accident in the state of Veracruz where at least 30 people died when a truck crashed into a bus on Friday.
REUTERS

Road accident kills 43 in eastern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 21 April—At least 43 people were killed in a road accident when a cargo truck crashed into a tour bus in the eastern Mexican state of Veracruz, local government authorities said on Friday.

The early morning collision occurred near the municipality of Alamo Temapache in northern Veracruz, and four minors were among the dead, a municipal spokesman said.

According to initial investigations, the vehicles

collided after the truck's trailer decoupled, said Gina Dominguez, a spokeswoman for the Veracruz state government. She confirmed the death toll reported by local authorities.

President Felipe Calderon expressed his sadness over the crash in a message posted on his Twitter account.

"My deepest condolences for the families of those who died in the terrible accident this morning in Veracruz," he said.

The spokesman in Alamo Temapache could not say how many people were injured in the accident, which occurred in a part of Mexico that has been plagued by drug-related gang violence in recent years. Local media put the number at more than 20.

Police reports showed both vehicles had license plates from the State of Mexico, which borders the capital, the spokesman added.

MNA/Reuters

Paramilitary soldiers and members of the media gather near the wreckage of a Boeing 737 airliner that crashed in Islamabad on 21 April, 2012. A passenger plane carrying 127 passengers and crew members crashed near Islamabad of Pakistan on Friday evening.
INTERNET

China denies US accusation of spying space technology

BEIJING, 21 April — China denied Friday a US accusation that the progress China has made in space exploration should be partially attributed to espionage. "China deeply regrets the relevant report from the US administration, and is firmly against the groundless accusation made against China," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin said at a Press briefing. The Wednesday report, jointly prepared by the US defence and state departments, recommended loosening US export controls on items used to build satellites and other relevant equipment.

However, it suggested maintaining or tightening controls on exports to particular countries like China and Iran, and accused China of spying space technology. "The report mistakenly insisted on the two-decade-old satellite export restrictions against China, which was against the consensus reached between the two heads of state on enhancing space cooperation," Liu said.

The achievements made in China's space programmes should be attributed to the hard pioneering work, innovation and diligence of the Chinese people, he said. "Any restriction, imputation or defamation against China's cause of space exploration will end in vain," Liu said. He stressed that China would stick to peaceful development, constantly improve its capabilities in the peaceful use of outer space and carry out space cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.—MNA/Xinhua

Mexico preps shelters as volcano roars, spews ash

XALITZINTLA, 21 April—The white-capped volcano that looms over Mexico City emitted a terrifying low-pitched roar Friday and spewed roiling towers of ash and steam as it vented the pressure built up by a massive chamber of magma beneath its slopes. Authorities prepared evacuation routes, ambulances and shelters in the event of a bigger explosion. Even a large eruption of the 17,886-foot (5,450-metre) cone of Popocatepetl is unlikely to do more than dump ash on one of the world's largest metropolitan areas. But the grit could play havoc with Mexico City's busy airport, and tens of thousands of people in the farming villages on its flanks could be forced to flee.

Popo, as it's commonly known, has put out small eruptions of ash almost daily since a round of eruptive activity began in 1994. A week ago, the eruptions started growing larger and authorities

slightly elevated the alert level for people living nearby. Before dawn on Friday, the mountain moved into what appeared to be a new level of activity, spitting out dozens of ash clouds and shot fragments of glowing rock down its slopes while frightening the residents of surrounding villages with deep roaring not heard in a decade.

People in the village of Xalitzintla said they were awakened by a window-rattling series of eruptions. Mexico's National Disaster Prevention Centre said one

Pakistan aircraft crash: Black box recovered by search teams

ISLAMABAD, 21 April — A black box flight recorder from a Pakistani private airlines plane, that crashed near Islamabad international airport Friday evening, killing 127 people on board, has been recovered by search teams, officials said. Recovery of the black box has raised hopes of understanding what really caused the crash of a Boeing aircraft of private Bhoja Airlines. The data recorder was handed over to the Pakistan Air Force for

investigations, officials said. All record of control tower and radar systems at the Islamabad airport was sealed to listen to the conversation between the pilot and aviation officials, officials said. President Asif Ali Zardari directed to hold inquiry into the matter and that the report be submitted to the presidency, presidential spokesman said. Interior Minister Rehman Malik and officials of the airlines confirmed there is no survivor



A plume of ash and smoke rises from the Popocatepetl volcano seen from the outskirts of the town of Santiago Xalitzintla, Mexico, on 20 April, 2012. Authorities prepared evacuation routes, ambulances and shelters in the event of a bigger explosion after the volcano that looms over Mexico City emitted a low-pitched roar early Friday morning and spewed ash and steam.—INTERNET

string of eruptions ended in the early morning, then the volcano started up again at 5:05 am, with at least 12 eruptions in two hours. "Up on the mountain, it feels incredible," said Aaron Sanchez Ocelotl, 45, who was in his turf grass fields when the eruptions happened. "It sounds like the roaring of the

Internet



A handout picture released by Shaam News Network shows a Syrian tank at a military checkpoint on the outskirts of Halfaya on 15 April.
INTERNET



among 118 passengers and 9 crew members.

The Interior Minister also said there are strong indications that lightning may have hit the plane but he said that black box would determine the real causes. Civil aviation authorities believe that the Boeing-737 crashed after running into lightning and heavy rain over Islamabad. Witnesses said the plane crashed on residential area, causing fire in the plane and several houses. Officials said there was no casualty on the ground and all residents of

the affected houses were safe. The plane B4-213 was coming from the port city of Karachi to Islamabad when came down about 10 to 20 kilometres away from the Islamabad's Benazir Bhutto International Airport at 6:45 pm local time.

The plane crashed minutes before it had to be landed, the aviation authority said. The Defence Ministry ordered inquiry into the crash and formed a committee to submit a report. The committee will be headed by group captain Mujahid Islam of Pakistan Air Force.—Xinhua

18 security forces killed in Syria attacks: state media

DAMASCUS, 21 April—A powerful blast killed 10 members of the security forces in the southern Syrian region of Quneitra on Friday, state television reported, blaming the explosion on "terrorists." "An armed terrorist group detonated a 100-kilogramme (220-pound) bomb in Sahn al-Jolan in the region of Quneitra, killing 10 members of the security forces," the channel said. The state run SANA news agency said the bomb was detonated by remote control and targeted a bus transporting government troops. Quneitra is near the demarcation line with Israel, in the disputed Golan Heights. A similar bomb attack in the town of Karak, in southern Daraa province, killed five soldiers, SANA said, also blaming "armed terrorist groups." Three more soldiers were killed in separate incidents elsewhere, according to state media.

"Armed terrorist groups are pursuing their terrorist attacks against civilians and security forces as well as private and public property in violation of the plan by envoy Kofi Annan," SANA said. It was referring to a six-point plan drawn up by UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan in a bid to halt 13 months of violence that the United Nations says has left more than 9,000 people dead. Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights said 13 civilians were killed on Friday across the country. It said regime forces killed an activist in Idlib, two civilians in Damascus and one in Aleppo and another in a bomb blast in the same region. Five civilians were also killed in the shelling of neighbourhoods in Homs in central Syria, while gunfire and explosions were also heard in Qusayr near Homs, where the Observatory reported three civilian deaths.

Internet

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Weather forecast delays shuttle's arrival to NYC

NEW YORK, 21 April—The space shuttle Enterprise's scheduled arrival in New York City has been pushed back because of possible bad weather. NASA says Monday's planned arrival of the shuttle has been postponed "until further notice." The Enterprise is being brought to the city where it has a new permanent home waiting at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum.

NASA managers are monitoring weather forecasts and will reschedule the shuttle's flight as soon as possible. The plan is to fly the shuttle atop a carrier aircraft to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. It will be moved by barge to the Intrepid museum for public display. The museum is at a decommissioned aircraft carrier moored off Manhattan. It's been making room for the shuttle on its flight deck.

Internet



In this photo provided by NASA, the NASA 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft moves into place for mating underneath the space shuttle Enterprise for transport to New York at Washington Dulles International Airport, on 20 April, 2012, in Sterling, Va. Enterprise is expected to go on display at the Intrepid Sea Air and Space Museum in New York.—INTERNET

US scientists head to Mount Everest for research

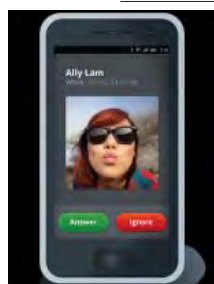
KATMANDU, 21 April — A team of American scientists and researchers flew to the Mount Everest region on Friday to set up a laboratory at the base of the world's highest mountain to study the effects of high altitude on humans. The team from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota says it plans to monitor nine climbers attempting to scale Everest to learn more about the physiology of humans at high altitudes in order to help patients with heart conditions and other ailments.

"We are interested in some of the parallels between

high altitude physiology and heart failure physiology," Dr. Bruce Johnson, who is heading the team, told *The Associated Press* before leaving Nepal's capital, Katmandu, for the mountain. "What we are doing here will help us with our work that we have been doing in the (Mayo Clinic) laboratory." Johnson and the eight other team members flew to the airstrip at Lukla, near Everest, on Friday.

It will take them about a week to trek to the Everest base camp, with several porters and yaks helping to carry their 680 kilograms (1,500

pounds) of medical equipment. They will set up their lab at the base camp, which is located at 5,300 meters (17,380 feet), and expect to be at the camp until at least mid-May. The team says Everest's extreme altitude puts climbers under the same conditions experienced by patients suffering from heart disease. The team members plan to study the effects of high altitude on the heart, the lungs, muscle loss and sleep during their stay at Everest, which peaks at 8,850 meters (29,035 feet).—Internet



Mock-ups have shown what the B2G phone will look like and how it will operate.—INTERNET

Mozilla smartphone to go on sale in 'late 2012'

NEW YORK, 21 April — Mobile phones running an operating system developed by makers of the Firefox web browser will go on sale in late 2012. The first handsets running Mozilla's "Boot to Gecko" (B2G) software will be available in Brazil on Telefonica Vivo's mobile network. Brazilian tech blog Ztop broke the news but had no details about which firm will make the handsets. Announced in July 2011, B2G aims to be an open rival to Google's Android.

The Mozilla Foundation is best known for its Firefox browser that adheres strictly to official standards for writing and viewing web pages. B2G was started as a way to bring the same discipline to mobiles and give people more control over what their phones do and the applications they run. It gets the name "Gecko" because that is the part of Firefox that decides how to display pages in a web browser. Speaking at a Press conference in Sao Paulo, Gary Kovacs, chief executive of Mozilla, said this openness would make a difference to the way applications on phones operate.—Internet



Report says blind-spot safety technology should be mandatory

LONDON, 21 April — All buses and lorries in the UK should be fitted with collision-avoidance technology by 2015, a report has recommended. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMEchE) said more could be done to protect those in drivers' blind-spots. The report suggested the adoption of available technology, such as specialised sensors warning drivers of nearby cyclists. The report also called for mandatory automated emergency response systems. The IMechE said services like eCall—which

can inform emergency services of an accident even if a driver is unconscious—had the potential to cut road fatalities by as much as 10%.

"The alarming rise in cyclist deaths on British roads needs to be addressed urgently," said Philippa Oldham, head of transport at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. "Cyclist deaths have risen by 7% in the past year, with about eight cyclists being killed or seriously injured daily on British roads. "A number of these deaths could be prevented if technology to prevent driver 'blind spots' were made

mandatory for all large vehicles."

The report, published on Thursday, recommended the adoption of technology called Lateral Safe, a collision avoidance system being developed by the European Council for Automotive Research and Development. The system uses sensors placed around large vehicles to warn drivers of potential obstacles, including cyclists and pedestrians. Many accidents are caused when an obstacle appears in a driver's blind-spot—an area not visible in the vehicle's mirrors.

NASA sets challenges for citizen scientists

WASHINGTON, 21 April — US space agency NASA has launched a competition to find "space apps" to aid space exploration and education. The two-day event will bring programmers together on seven continents to see how creative they can be with NASA's store of space data. Problems NASA wants solved include improving data sharing after disasters and spotting good lunar landing sites. Coders on the International Space Station and at McMurdo base in Antarctica will join in. The event runs from 21-22 April at more than 25 venues around the world. Hundreds of people have registered to go along and take part in the various challenges.

NASA hopes the weekend will lead to the creation of mobile apps, software, and hardware as well as visualisations of some of its large data sets. The resulting code will be judged and used by NASA in its space exploration missions. One challenge hopes to find a way to let astronauts bake bread in space to improve morale by reminding them of home.

Other challenges are more Earth bound and are directed towards aims such as better ways to monitor water use - to ensure scarce supplies are not depleted or warn of impending droughts. In a statement, NASA said the Space Apps Challenge was a citizen science event that would help to change the way the US government interacted with people.— Internet



The Space App Challenge will ask how astronaut morale could be improved by baking bread in space.— INTERNET

Verizon plans big Windows Phone push for the holidays

WASHINGTON, 21 April — Verizon Wireless chief financial officer Fran Shammo said the company is looking to market a third mobile platform to help develop a strong competitor to Apple and Google. That operating system will be Microsoft's upcoming Windows Phone 8. "We're really looking at the Windows Phone 8.0 platform because that's a differentiator. We're working with Microsoft on it," Shammo said in an interview with Reuters following the company's earnings call on Thursday. The carrier expects to have Windows Phone 8-powered handsets in time for the 2012 holiday shopping season. The executive suggested that Verizon could play a similar role in helping Microsoft's platform to grow as it did with Google's Android OS. — Internet



The number of accidents involving big vehicles and cyclists has risen, researchers said.— INTERNET

Other suggestions included the adoption of autonomous driving technology, such as those found in Google's Driverless car, which uses data gathered using Google Street View as well as sensors and cameras on the car. Ms Oldham added:

"By putting the UK at the forefront of intelligent transport technology we can also build an industry that is set to redefine the car in the next few decades, tapping into a market that will be worth about £40bn by 2020."

Internet

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Clock change could leave teenagers more sleepy

LONDON, 21 April — Teenagers can suffer severe sleep deprivation when the clocks change, say researchers at the University of Surrey. The amount they sleep decreases to less than six hours a night on average the week following the move to British Summer Time. During this period their concentration may be lower and mood affected. Scientists also found that even before the change, teenagers were getting less than the recommended hours of sleep.

The activity of some sixth-form students from Claremont Fan Court School in Surrey was studied using wristwatches. These were worn constantly over a 10-day period before and after the clocks moved forward on 25 March. The watches reliably indicated when the teenagers were awake and asleep. The researchers found that in the days following the clock change, the teenagers had less than six hours of sleep a night. Adults generally have eight.

Joanne Bower, a sleep researcher at the University of Surrey said: "During adolescence, teenagers

experience a shift in their circadian rhythm [body clock] - these make sure the same things happen at the same time every day. One of these things is the production of the sleep-promoting hormone, melatonin. "For an adult, you would expect that to be early evening, but in teenagers it happens much later. "Even if you put your teenager to bed at 10 at night, they may not secrete melatonin until midnight, and so they're staring at the ceiling, and aren't sleepy."

"This means teenagers are awake later in the evening and find it difficult to rise early in the morning. "Add this to the clock change, in which we lose an hour of sleep, and teenagers may suffer more than most."

The need for more sleep is something teenagers are familiar with. Noelle Delaney, a mother of a student involved in the study, said: "Some days it can be very difficult. I have been known to go in and pull her by her feet out of bed." Consistent sleep deprivation can affect your health.

Internet

Not enough sleep can affect teenagers' school work.—INTERNET



Childhood obesity may raise odds of adult liver cancer

BARCELONA, 21 April — Adults who were obese as children are at increased risk for liver cancer, a new study suggests. Researchers looked at the birth weight and body-mass index (a measurement of body fat based on height and weight commonly called BMI) of more than 165,000 men and 160,000 women in Denmark born between 1930 and 1989. Of those participants, 252 developed hepatocellular carcinoma, the most common form of liver cancer in adulthood.

The study authors calculated that at age 7, the risk of developing hepatocellular carcinoma increased by 12 percent for every one-point increase in BMI. By age 13, that risk increased to 25 percent. Therefore, as units of BMI increased into adulthood, so did the risk of developing hepatocellular carcinoma. This was consistently similar across both genders and all ages.

Other factors associated with liver cancer include alcoholism, infection by hepatitis B and C, and other liver diseases. But the study results did not change when participants with these factors were removed from the study, which indicates that childhood obesity was the major factor in the development of hepatocellular carcinoma, the researchers said. The study was slated for presentation on Thursday at the International

Liver Congress in Barcelona. "Childhood obesity not only leads to the development of many adverse metabolic conditions — such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease — but also fatty liver disease, which may subsequently result in liver cancer," Dr. Frank Lammert, a scientific committee member of the European Association for the Study of the Liver, said in an association news release.

"The importance of maintaining a healthy childhood BMI cannot be underestimated," Lammert said in the release. "These alarming study results point to a potential correlation between childhood obesity and development of liver cancer in adulthood." Data and conclusions presented at meetings should be considered preliminary until published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.

Internet

Early milk feeds 'benefits premature babies'



The study found that premature babies could be moved earlier onto milk feeds.—INTERNET

LONDON, 21 April — At-risk premature babies would benefit from being given milk feeds earlier, a study has suggested. The University of Oxford study found babies were not at a higher risk of severe bowel problems if moved off tube-feeds early, as was feared. Four hundred babies, born at least five weeks early and small for their age, were studied for the Pediatrics paper. The premature baby charity Bliss said it hoped the findings would lead to a change in feeding practices. Over 60,000 babies are born prematurely every year in the UK and one in 10 babies born in the UK needs some form of special care because of problems during their birth, because of a life-threatening condition or because they were born too early.

High-risk premature babies are vulnerable to severe

bowel problems, including a condition called necrotising enterocolitis (NEC). Concerns over this risk has led to special care units previously tending to delay the start of milk feeds. But tube feeding can also cause complications, including liver problems.

The researchers behind this study, which was funded by the charity Action Medical Research, wanted to examine if underweight premature babies could take milk earlier, which would then help them gain a healthy weight sooner.

The study was co-ordinated by the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at the University of Oxford, and carried out at 54 hospitals across UK and Ireland. Almost half of the babies in the trial needed some help with their breathing, although really sick babies were not included. Half of the babies were introduced

to milk feeds on day two of life, while the remainder were given milk on day six.

Three quarters were given their mother's breast milk, rather than donor milk or formula.

Full feeding—defined as babies successfully taking milk feeds for 72 hours—was achieved earlier in the babies who started milk feeds on day two. On average, babies who started milk feeds on day two of life were being fully milk fed by 18 days of age - compared with an average of 21 days of age in those who started on day six.

And the early milk feed group spent an average of 11 days in high-dependency cots, compared with 15 for the later group.

Crucially, there was no statistically significant difference in the number of babies experiencing severe bowel problems, including NEC. In the group given early feeds, 36 (18%) developed NEC, compared with 30 (15%) of those who started later. The authors of the paper, led by Dr Alison Leaf and Professor Peter Brocklehurst conclude that babies "would generally benefit from starting milk feeds within the first 24-48 hours after birth".—Internet

Nestle having 'challenging' 2012

GENEVA, 21 April — The world's biggest food group Nestle has reported rising sales but says it is having a "challenging year". The Swiss company said its sales in the first three months of 2012 were 21.4bn Swiss francs (\$23.4bn; £14.6bn), up 5.6% from the same period last year. The group behind KitKat and Nespresso said that the trading environment had been subdued in many developed markets.

But it added that in most emerging markets "conditions remain dynamic and rich in growth opportunities". Nestle struggled in 2011 with the strength of the Swiss franc, which cut its earnings by 13.4% in the full year. But in the past six months the Swiss central bank has been intervening to weaken its currency and support the

country's exporters.

Nestle said an expected "improved raw material environment" in the second half of the year together with rising prices meant it could maintain its forecast of improved earnings and profit margins for the full year. It did not comment on the deal it is expected to finalise this month to buy Pfizer's infant nutrition business for about \$9bn (£5.6bn).—Internet

Long MP3 playlists lead to distracted drivers

WASHINGTON, 21 April — Searching for a favourite song on your MP3 player in the car can lead to distracted driving, researchers say. About 90 percent of new vehicles sold in the United States have MP3 connectivity and makers of aftermarket MP3 controllers

make devices claimed to decrease driver distraction. But these devices may actually increase driver distraction, according to the new study.

The study included 50 people aged 18 to 25 who used either an MP3 player or an aftermarket controller to search for specific songs in playlists of varying lengths while operating a driving simulator.

Drivers who searched through long playlists (580 songs) glanced away from the road more often and for longer periods of time than those who searched through shorter playlists.

The aftermarket controller was found to lengthen, not shorten, the drivers' glances away from the road. The findings appear in *Human Factors: The Journal of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society*. "As seen in this study, these aftermarket devices do not always have the expected effect," researcher John Lee, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said in a journal news release.

"New technology in the car often seems like familiar old technology, such as a radio, but is often much more likely to distract," Lee noted. "A simple task of selecting a song from a list can seduce you into looking away from the road longer than you might have intended, and long looks away from the road can kill."

Despite numerous education campaigns and laws aimed at reducing distracted driving, the problem may actually be getting worse, recent figures from the US Department of Transportation suggest. April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.—Internet

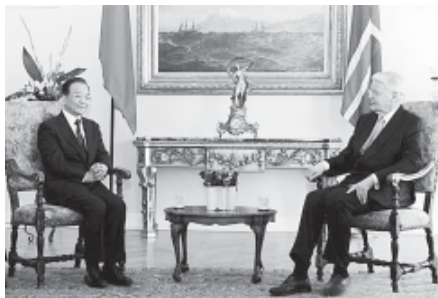
Nestle is expected to buy Pfizer's infant nutrition business this month.
INTERNET



China, Iceland agree to expedite free trade talks

REYKJAVIK, 21 April — Visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Icelandic President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson agreed here Friday that the two sides will accelerate their free trade negotiations. In his meeting with Grimsson, Wen suggested that China and Iceland speed up the negotiating process, which was officially launched in 2007, and strive together to bring forth the first free trade zone between China and a European nation next year.

"I have come here not only along with Chinese people's friendship with the Icelandic people, but also sincere aspiration to advance



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (L) meets with Icelandic President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 20 April, 2012.—XINHUA

bilateral cooperation," said Wen. The 41-year-old China-Iceland diplomatic relationship has proved that

countries with different social systems and cultural backgrounds can foster friendly relations on the basis

of mutual respect and equality, he added.

Meanwhile, Wen also conveyed China's readiness to further cooperation with Iceland in such areas as investment, clean energy, science and technology, education and Arctic affairs. By doing so, the Chinese Premier said, the two countries will jointly tackle challenges, share development opportunities and bring more benefits to their peoples. Hailing Wen's visit as a new milestone in bilateral ties with historic significance, Grimsson also expressed the hope for an early signing of a bilateral free trade deal.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong quake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 21 April—An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 struck eastern Indonesia on Saturday off Irian Jaya, the United States Geological Survey said, and the Indonesian disaster mitigation agency said the quake has no tsunami potential. The USGS said the quake was recorded offshore, 51 miles south-southeast of the town of Manokwari, at a depth of 18.5 miles. It had initially estimated the magnitude of the tremor at 6.9 and 7.0. At least one major aftershock was recorded.

In Manokwari, "the quake was felt quite strongly for a couple of seconds, and residents ran away from houses and buildings," said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the spokesman for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency. There were no immediate reports of damage, although the office is still waiting for reports from the regions, Nugroho added.—Reuters



This file photo shows coastal villages on the west coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island, near Banda Aceh, taken on 12 April.—INTERNET

Ruins of ancient town found in China's largest desert

QIRA, (Xinjiang), 21 April — Chinese archaeologists working in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have found the ruins of an ancient town in the country's largest desert.

The town, covering at least 65,000 square metres, was uncovered last week in the Taklimakan Desert in Qira county, Hotan prefecture, Dr Wu Xinhua, head of the Xinjiang archaeological team of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said on Friday.

Judging from the layout and ruins of the buildings, Wu and his colleagues believe the town dates back to the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD220).

Most of the ruins have been buried by sand, but four city walls are still visible, said Dr Wu. The innermost city wall extends 17.8 metres from south to north and 14.6 metres from east to west, he said.

"Ruins of a building were found in the southeastern corner of the inner circle." The second city wall surrounds the city centre, a

4,000-square-metre area dotted with the ruins of toppled pillars, beams and pieces of red pottery, he said.

The third wall was presumably a "boulevard," and large amounts of carbonized jujube and poplar seeds have been unearthed from this wall, said Dr Wu.

Ruins of several residential structures were found between the "boulevard" and the outer wall, a fence built with reeds, he said. Wu said the ruins are the most intact of their kind to be discovered in the Taklimakan Desert since New China was founded in 1949.

"We assume the place was either a military fortress or the residence of a chieftain," Dr Tang Zihua, a member of the archaeological team, has taken samples of the weeds and trees he collected at the site for lab tests in Beijing.

"We'll use carbon-14 to date them," said Tang, a researcher from the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Geology and

Geophysics. Judging from the abundant plants and lumber found among the building materials, Tang said the area, now arid year-round, must have had ample water resources during the Han Dynasty.

The southern end of the ancient Silk Road, a major historical trade route, went across the Taklimakan Desert, and a wide variety of cultural heritage items have been buried in what is now known as the "sea of death."

Today, the name of the Taklimakan Desert, which covers 337,000 square km, is often translated as, "Once you're trapped, there's no escape."

In 1901, British explorer Marc Aurel Stein trekked into the ruins of Niya, an ancient Pompeii-like city with homes, Buddhist stupas, temples, pottery kilns, orchards, tombs, waterways and dams far out in the desert.

The newly-discovered ruins are about 100 km from the ancient city of Niya.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 20 April, 2012 shows the International Exposition Yeosu Korea 2012 site in Yeosu, South Korea. Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea Organizing Committee held a Press conference on the preparation of the Expo to the foreign media in Yeosu on Friday. This Expo, whose theme is "The Living Ocean and Coast", is scheduled to be held in Yeosu from 12 May to 12 August, 2012.

XINHUA

Vietnam seeks foreign help after skin disease kills 19

HANOI, 21 April — Vietnam's health authorities will seek foreign assistance to deal with a resurgence of a mystery skin infection that has already killed 19 people in the central region and terrified villagers, state-run media reported on Saturday. The disease was first reported between April and December last year, with doctors unable to identify the cause and it has re-emerged in a mountainous district of Quang Ngai Province.

One village was reported to be in a state of terror over

the death of a resident, and altogether 171 people reported infections on palms and the soles of their feet. *The Nguoi Lao Dong (Labourer)* daily said frightened residents had blocked access to Reu village. "A person died last week but only a few people came to the funeral because many were afraid a ghost would catch them and take them along with the deceased," the daily quoted villager Pham Van Khiem, 36, as saying.

Deputy Health Minister Nguyen Thanh Long, quoted

by the *Thanh Nien* newspaper, said the Ministry would ask the World Health Organization and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention experts to help investigate the cause of the disease. He said officials were taking steps to reduce the mortality rate. About one in 10 of those suffering from the condition had serious liver disorder, but the disease is not transmissible except by contact through cut skin, media reports quoted health officials as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Aboriginal teens shot by Sydney police

SYDNEY, 21 April—Two Aboriginal teenagers were shot by police in central Sydney on Saturday after mounting a crowded footpath in a stolen car and hitting a bystander, stoking race tensions in the city. The 14-year-old driver was hit in the chest and arm and his passenger, 18, took a bullet to the neck after police opened fire on the windscreen of their car as it sped onto a busy pavement in the city's Kings Cross nightclub zone.

Assistant police commissioner Mark Murdoch said onlookers "literally jumped for their lives" as the stolen vehicle mounted the kerb at around 4am, mowing down a 29-year-old woman who was hospitalised with chest injuries.

Murdoch said police had recognized the driver and passenger as youths from the impoverished Aboriginal district of Redfern, and the pair had sped the car onto the footpath "to avoid apprehension" as officers had



This file photo shows a busy street in central Sydney. Two Aboriginal teenagers aged 14 and 18 were shot by police in central Sydney on Saturday after mounting a crowded footpath in a stolen car and hitting a bystander as officers gave chase.—INTERNET

approached them. "That vehicle struck a female pedestrian. That female pedestrian was pushed under the front of the vehicle," Murdoch told reporters. "At that point police, in an attempt to protect that person, discharged a number of shots into the vehicle."

Whether "that decision turned out to be the right decision" would be determined by an internal investigation but Murdoch said his advice was "that the

police had little other option" to protect onlookers. "We have a vehicle being driven on the footpath... when there are many tens, if not potentially hundreds of people. That to me presents a significant risk of harm to the community," Murdoch said. Both teenagers were in hospital and the driver was in a "serious but stable" condition. Murdoch said they were expected to recover from their injuries.

Internet

Forbidden City to open new area to visitors

BEIJING, 21 April — The Palace Museum in the heart of Beijing, more popularly known as the Forbidden City, will open its Huangji Palace to the public before the May Day holiday, the museum said on Friday. Huangji Palace, built in 1689, was used to hold ceremonies for emperors after they finished handling state affairs.

According to a statement of the museum, the refurbished palace will open to the public only during major holidays, including the May Day and the National Day holidays and summer holiday. The Palace Museum will adjust the palace's opening hours in accordance with weather conditions to protect the safety of its cultural relics, the statement said.

Shan Jixiang, curator of the Palace Museum, said the opening of Huangji Palace is part of the museum's plan to enlarge the areas for visitors, from about 45 percent at present to 76 percent in the future. Huangji Palace used to be an exhibition hall where calligraphy works, paintings and jewelry were displayed. The palace no longer functions as a display area since undergoing renovations in 2004. The Palace Museum will open one hour earlier than usual during the May Day holiday from 29 April to 1 May. — *Xinhua*

Three arrested after fatal shooting at Texas cockfighting ring

EDINBURG, 21 April — Three people in Texas were arrested and charged with operating a cockfighting ring, a local sheriff said on Friday, a day after masked gunmen shot three people during a match. Investigators have not identified the gunmen who shot the spectators on Thursday morning in a remote area about 20 miles from the US-Mexico border, Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino said.

Police arrested a man and woman who owned the land where an elaborate cockfighting ring operated for years, and the proprietor who rented the location, Trevino said. Operating a cockfighting ring, where participants attach spurs to roosters' claws in a fight to the death, is a felony in Texas

and illegal across the United States. Three men were slain when masked gunmen ambushed the cockfighting ring shortly after midnight Thursday, the sheriff said.

Investigators believe brothers Ramiro Macias Garcia, 49, and Juan Santos Macias Garcia, 53, were the gunmen's primary target. Another man, Arturo Buentello Garza, 41, is believed to have been a bystander killed in the spray of bullets, Trevino said. The Garcia brothers may have been involved in a drive-by shooting in the area and the shooting may have been an act of revenge, Trevino said. Asked if the gunmen had ties to a Mexican drug cartel, Trevino said: "We have no evidence this came out of Mexico." — *Reuters*



A robot sprays pesticide on tomatoes during the 13th China (Shouguang) International Vegetable Sci-Tech Fair in Shouguang, east China's Shandong Province, on 20 April, 2012. — *Xinhua*

Slovenia and Austria at odds over sausage

KRANJ, 21 April — It's a diplomatic rift that has both countries hungry for a fight. The subject of the spat? A humble pork sausage. Slovenia calls the spicy delicacy "Kranjska klobasa" and Austria "Kraingerwurst" — variants of the same name that belongs to the border region the sausage comes from. Both countries have enjoyed the snack for centuries and consider it part of their cultural heritage. Now, Slovenia has applied to the European Union for exclusive use of the name, and the Austrians are having none of it.

"We're not going to allow anyone to deny us the Krainer," declared Austrian Agriculture Minister Niki Berlakovich. He said that giving up the name would hurt the country's economy and threaten its culinary traditions. Slovenia — which hosts the Kranjska (or Krainer) region — wants the sausage

to be given special Protected Geographical Indication status by the EU. That designation has been given to such famous brands as Champagne wine in France, Parmesan cheese in Italy and Melton Mowbray pork pies in the United Kingdom.

"All the arguments are on our side," said Slovenian Agriculture and Environment Minister Franc Bogovic. "We expect the protection of the Kranjska sausage by the European Commission." If the two EU neighbours cannot settle the dispute within the next few months, the Commission will have to make the ruling. If Slovenia wins, the Austrians will have to change the name of their sausage. The Austrians aren't demanding the Slovenes change the name of theirs. The Slovenes insist that the culinary specialty, made of minced pork and seasoned with garlic

and pepper, originated on their territory in the 19th century when the tiny Alpine state was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

"There is no doubt among the experts that Kranjska sausage must be given the geographical protected status," said Slovene ethnology professor Janez Bogataj. "But this (clash) has gained political connotations which must be

avoided." Austrians say there's no way they will change the name, either for the standard or the cheese-filled version of the sausage — called Kaeskrainer — that is one of the most popular treats at the country's trademark sausage stands. "We have had the Krainers for so long," said butcher Johannes Rotter, displaying different versions of the sausage in his shop window in the Austrian town of Klagenfurt. — *Internet*



In this photo taken on 19 April, 2012, a served pair of "Kranjska" sausages are pictured in a restaurant in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Slovenia and Austria are gearing up for a diplomatic battle over a delicacy both countries claim their own, a spicy pork sausage. — *INTERNET*

UN calls for doubling renewable energy by 2030

WASHINGTON, 21 April — UN chief Ban Ki-moon made a call to double global consumption of renewable energy over the next two decades in order to ensure

sustainable economic development.

"It's possible if we show political leadership," Ban said about the goal that falls under a sustainable energy

initiative aiming to have universal access to power by 2030. Currently, renewable energy accounts for about 16 percent of world consumption.

"We have to be very austere in using energy... We have to completely change our behavior, at home, at the office," the UN secretary-general added at an event hosted by the Centre for Global Development think-tank in Washington.

About 1.3 billion people on Earth — a fifth of the global population — lacks access to electricity, while 2.7 billion do not have clean fuel to cook their food and heat their homes, relying instead on open fires or furnaces that burn coal, wood or animal waste. "Energy is central to jobs, transport, water, sanitation... climate," Ban said after meeting with finance

ministers from the G20 most powerful economies.

The United Nations is expecting some 120 heads of state and government to attend the Rio+20 meeting on sustainable development in Brazil in June, with a focus on developing a plan for implementation and action. On Monday, the European Union vowed fresh funds Monday to help developing nations provide sustainable energy to 500 million people by 2030.

European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso pledged 50 million euros (\$65 million) over two years for technical assistance and said EU nations would seek hundreds of millions of euros more to support investments in sustainable energy for developing countries.

Internet



File picture shows workers assembling solar panels by hand at a factory in the eastern Chinese city of Wuxi. UN chief Ban Ki-moon made a call to double global consumption of renewable energy over the next two decades in order to ensure sustainable economic development.

INTERNET

Wind turbine blimp aims to replace diesel generators

WASHINGTON, 21 April — Look, up in the sky! It's a bird... it's a plane... it's a... wind turbine? Altaeros Energies, a Massachusetts-based company formed by MIT and Harvard grads, has aimed high — literally — in its quest to deliver power to remote, off-the-grid locations, creating a blimp that harnesses the power of the wind at 1,000 feet up.

The prototype, seen in this video, is a large helium-filled shell that looks almost like a jet engine (or, as we suspect more than a few people thought when it was tested in Maine earlier this year, a UFO). Attached to a trailer on the ground, it automatically deploys itself 1,000 feet in the air (350 feet for its inaugural test flight) where a fan at its center is turned by the wind. At this altitude, the wind is not only stronger than at ground level, but also much steadier, resulting in twice the energy production of a traditional, pole-mounted turbine.

The electricity generated by the turbine is sent down to the trailer via the tether cables, where it can be used to power remote villages, military outposts, or anywhere that would normally have to depend on polluting diesel generators. When it's not in use, it can be automatically reeled in.

Altaeros Energies says that while the power its blimp provides costs more than getting it from the grid, it's actually more affordable than from generators that require a constant supply of gasoline, not to mention greener. The company plans to develop a larger, sturdier version of the 35-foot dirigible for use offshore by utility companies. — *Internet*

Union Minister for Information and for Culture attends merit-sharing...

(from page 1)

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha S a d d h a m m a j o t i k a Bhaddanta Agghiya, State Ovadacariya Mandalay Region Myataung Kyaungtaik Shwe Wah Win Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha S a d d h a m m a j o t i k a Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Mandalay Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Phone Zaw Han, officials of the ministry of information and the ministry of culture and region level departmental officials and donors.

In 1226 ME (1864), King Mindon donated 18 Thudhamma rest houses between Yadanabon Sankyaung and

Kyauktawgyi Pagoda and 15 others along the moat totalling 33. In the Thudhamma rest houses, religious literature competitions were yearly held from 8th Waxing of Waso to 8th Waxing of Wagaung. They were also places where people took Sabbath in the Yadanabon Period. Moreover, so far they have been places for public during the Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Sanda Muni Pagoda and Kuthodaw Pagoda festivals.

Thudhamma rest houses measuring 51ft x 27ft x 31ft have been built with double roofing and 28 wooden posts with concrete foundation. After the British had annexed Myanmar, 14 rest houses were destroyed due to road construction, human activities and the

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan cordially greets wellwishers of Thudhamma Rest Houses in Mandalay.

MNA



elements, and there are now only 19 rest houses. Hanged in the rest houses are 489 oil paintings depicting Jataka drawn by artists Saya Mya and Saya Aye in 1905.

Out of the remaining 19 rest houses, six were renovated with K 25 million from State funds in 2011-2012 and 13 others

with K 458.8 million donated by public wellwishers. Out the 489 paintings, 150 were cleaned and maintained with K 4.5 million from State funds in 2011-2012 and the remaining 339 will be maintained with modern chemical method. The Archaeology,

National Museum and Library Department is planning to put the 19 rest houses and paintings on display.

The Ministry of Culture will take measures to maintain the rest houses for their long-term durability. If the rest houses are in damage with the

passage of time, it will be informed to today's donors for further donations. Moreover, the government in cooperation with the public will continue to renovate and maintain ancient cultural heritages and religious edifices across the country.

MNA

Htao-Saisichauk Road put into service in Thantlang Township



NAY PYI TAW, 21 April— An opening ceremony of Htao-Saisichauk Road in Thantlang Township in Chin State took place at Htao Village on 15 April morning.

Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, State Minister for Transport U

Ngun Hsan Aung gave opening speeches. On behalf of locals, Director U Chaum Ha Ye of Department of Relief and Resettlement expressed words of thanks.

State Minister for Transport U Ngun Hsan Aung, Township Administrator U Yuan Htan

and Chairman of Road Construction Committee U Van Cyon Mann cut the ribbon to open the road.

The newly-opened road is a gravel facility with 12 feet in width and also a network to Haka-Thantlang Road.

MNA

Storm victims in Ywangan, Pindaya townships get cash assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—The cash donation

The opening ceremony of Htao-Saisichauk Road in progress in Htao Village of Thantlang Township in Chin State on 15 April.

MNA

ceremony was held for storm victims at the office of the Leading Body of Danu Self-Administered Zone on 14 April.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat made an opening speech.

Next, he provided K 4,350,000 for damages in Myogyi Village of Ywangan Township, seven households from Namkhon

Village-tract and 66 households from Myogyi Village-tract, damages in Thitelbin and Theingon Villages in Pindaya Township, People's Hospital and five households from Hngetyawdaw Ward.

On behalf of the victims, a local spoke words of thanks.

MNA

WORLD TB DAY MARKED: An activity of World TB Day was held at the hall of health care training school in Mawlamyinegyon on 10 April. Head of Township Health Department Medical Superintendent Dr Aye Aung of 100-bed Hospital explains matters on TB disease.

MYANMA ALIN



Value-added crops help farmers get increased income

(from page 1)

In addition, it is learnt that the net profit of one acre of melon is 282,000 kyats and that of tomato is 1,392,150 kyats. In ChaungU Township, 2190 acres of land were put under musk melon plantation in 10 village-tracts in 2011-2012

fiscal year, earning K 485,558,500. 137 acres of melon could be grown in five village-tracts, generating K 39,182,000 in profit. The 19 village-tracts could grow 469 acres of tomato, earning K 652,918,350. As ChaungU Township has gained a total profit of K 1,177,658,850, it has seen a significant rise in

GDP with socio-economic development of farmers. Village administrator U Than Win told me that some farmers even go to China to sell their products and the profits are usually more.

Agriculture Department is also systematically enforcing farmers in using chemical pesticides to make sure it does not pose threat to ecological balance. As ChaungU has achieved GDP growth

through cultivation of value-added crops, I hope other regions with favourable climate and soil will take its example to grow value-added crops, thereby contributing to self-, regional to national interests.

Translation: TTKK
Kyemon: 21-4-2012

Packaging of crops in progress before distribution to the market.



Cash assistance provided to bus line committees, owners, workers



YANGON, 21 April—Yangon Region All Private Bus-line Control Committee

owners and bus workers for the second biannual in 2011-2012 fiscal year at its training hall of the Committee on Laydaunkkan Road in Tamway Township on 9 April morning.

Chairman of the Committee U Tin Htut made an opening speech.

After that, the chairman presented cash assistance for the private bus line control committees and staff, bus owners and bus workers.

At the ceremony, cash assistance for the bus owners and workers amounted to K 32 million.—*Tin Maung Latt*

Respects paid to the aged in Indaw Township

Mawlu, 21 April—The 22nd respect paying ceremony was held near Hsonseeya Teashop on Mandalay-Myitkyina Strategic Road in Mawlu Model Village in Indaw Township of Yangon Region on 16 April evening.

The local people donated K 1,736,650 to 51 aged persons of above 80 years old.

Kyemon



May I help You

MANDALAY, 21 April—Under the supervision of Mandalay Region Police

Force, Township Police Forces distributed pamphlets on dos and don'ts to the people not to guard against theft cases, looting cases, human trafficking, murder and rape cases.

With a view to bringing down crimes in Mandalay, anyone may ask help from Mandalay Region Police Force, Tel: 02-39635, Mandalay District Police Force, Tel: 02-36989, Aungmyethazan Township Police Force, Tel: 02-36780, Chanayethazan Township Police Force, Tel: 02-36782, Chanmyathazi Township Police Force, Tel: 02-70683, Pyigyidagun Township Police Force, Tel: 02-80347,

DISTRICT NEWS

Amarapura Township Police Force; Tel: 02-57905 and Patheingyi Township Police Force; Tel: 02-57749, Mandalay No 1 Police Station; Tel: 02-61207, No 2 Police Station 02-32008; No 3 Police Station 02-32089; No 4 Police Station 02-60831; No 5 Police Station 02-36991; No 6 Police Station 02-36992; No 7 Police Station 02-36993; No 8 Police Station 02-36994; No 9 Police Station 02-36995; No 10 Police Station 02-63145; No 11 Police Station 02-36996; Aungpinle Police Station 02-62710 and Pyigyidagun Police Station 02-80348.

Kyemon

Fire breaks out in Shwelaung Village of Wakema

WAKEMA, 21 April—A fire broke out from the house of Daw Si Si (a) Daw Myo Khaing on Thida Road in Shwelaung Village of Wakema Township at 6.30 pm on 11 April.

The fire engulfed three one-storey buildings, three two-storey buildings, ten-apartment shop and two houses, leaving 47 people homeless.

According to the information, Township Administrator U Soe Tun and

helped the ceremony to present cash assistance to various committees and staff, bus

party, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Tin Maung Win and members supervised fire fighting works.

Members of Fire Services Department and auxiliary fire brigades from Myatheintan Ward and Hlaykyin Ward put out fire and died out it at 8 pm.

The township administrator and party provided necessary assistance to the fire victims.

Kyemon

Bridge on Mandalay-Myitkyina Road at Mawlu repaired



Mawlu, 21 April—A bridge, 90 feet long and 15 feet wide, at mile post 162/10 on Mandalay-Myitkyina strategic road, linking Mawlu Ward and Simaw Village was repaired in

Mawlu Model Village of Indaw Township in Sagaing Region on 10 April.

The repairing works cost over K 4 million, according to Hsuhtooan road and bridge manager.—*Kyemon*

People educated to systematically throw garbage in Bago



BAGO, 21 April—Although workers of Bago Township Development Affairs Committee carry out sanitation and gather garbage in the township area by garbage bin daily, undisciplined throwing of garbage and piles of garbage tarnish image of the town.

The dwellers are urged to throw garbage to trash bins from 8 am to 10 am and 2 pm to 5 pm systematically. If the bins fail to gather garbage in urban wards regularly, anyone may dial 052-22547, 21069 and 22903 for complaints.

Bago Township

Development Affairs Committee has implemented polyethylene bag free town from 1-1-2012 to 31-3-2012. As of 1-4-2012, action is being taken against those who throw garbage without disciplines. At the same time, bags are being distributed in replacement of polyethylene bags at markets and wards free of charge.

In Bago, the local people throw 30 tons of garbage per day including that of restaurants and markets.

Kyemon

Shwe Creek Bridge No 1 under construction

PAKOKKU, 21 April—Special Project Group 3 of Public Works under Ministry of Construction is implementing Bridge No 1 Project to be substituted in the place of Shwechaung Bridge damaged in flood in Bago in October 2011. So far, construction of the bridge has completed by 50 per cent.

Construction tasks started on 7 February 2012. The facility will be 900 feet long and 24 feet wide, and it will have two-way motor road. Pedestrian way will be 3.5 feet wide on either side. The bridge will withstand 75 tons of loads. The bridge is of reinforced concrete bored piles and reinforced concrete structure. The upper structure is being built with pre-stress concrete beams and floors.

Pakokku Shwe Creek Bridge No 1 is located on Pakokku-Yesagyo-Monywa Road. On

completion, domestic products from Pakokku can be transported to Yesagyo, Monywa and Mandalay easily.

A plan is under way to complete Pakokku Shwe Creek Bridge No 1 before rainy season. After completion of the bridge, Shwe Creek Bridge No 2 will be built there.—*Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)*



READING HABIT RAISED: The ceremony to raise reading habit and to award winners in essay, extempore talk and poem recitation was held at No 14 Basic Education Primary School in Myothit Ward 8 of Insein Township recently. Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe speaking on the occasion.—*KYEMON*

South Okkalapa Township gets new library



YANGON, 21 April—A ceremony to open Zeyamon Library was held at the office of Ward 10 administrative office in South Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region on 6 April morning.

Ward administrator U Myint Hsan explained the purpose of opening the library and tasks to develop the library in the long run. Writer Maung Paw Tun, a townselder, gave talks on

literary affairs.

The ward administrator presented commemorative pennants to an official and certificates of honour to wellwishers. Next, donors presented books to the library.

After that, South Okkalapa Township Hluttaw representative U Myo Min Aung, Township Administrator U Chit Thein, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin Si and Ward administrator U Myint Hsan formally opened the library.

Myanma Alin

Bridges on island ringroad inspected in Manaung Township

DISTRICT NEWS

MANAUNG, 21 April—Bridges are under construction on ringroad of the island in Manaung Township.

On 1 April, Rakhine State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tha Nyunt, Rakhine State Minister for Transport U Kyaw Khin, Minister for Social Affairs Dr Aung Kyaw Min and Rakhine State Superintending Engineer U Kyi Soe of Public Works and party inspected construction of 90-foot Akhok Creek bailey bridge and 60-foot Welanug Creek bailey



bridge on the ringroad and gave instructions on works.

The Deputy Speaker of the State Hluttaw and Rakhine State ministers looked into progress of Hsachet Station Hospital

being built by Mayga Warazein Construction Company Ltd.

Director U Kyaw Zeyar Win conducted them round the construction site.

Myanma Alin

Plan under way to build suspension bridge across tributary of river

MYITNGE, 21 April—A plan is under way to build a suspension bridge across Hsin Creek, which is tributary of Dokhtawady River, between Migyaungtet Village and Wegyi Hsinywa Village in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region, according to the suspension bridge construction committee.

The suspension bridge will be built with contributions of the local people from two villages, said Migyaungtet Village Administrator U Than Htay

of the bridge construction committee.

"Suspension will be constructed on a self-reliant basis. The funds of cash donations and contributions of the local people will be spent on construction tasks. The local people will fund over K 20 million and suspension bridge technicians of Switzerland will provide necessary technology for construction tasks," said U Than Htay.

On completion, the suspension bridge will help develop education, health,

economic and social affairs of the local people from Migyaungtet and Wegyi Hsinywa Village, said members of the construction committee U Than Htay and U Min Thein. The facility will be over 250 feet long bridge.

Migyaungtet and Wegyi Hsinywa villages are home to about 2700 people of about 550 houses and the majority of the people are engaging in cultivation of mango, lime and lemon plantations.

Myanma Alin

Crime reduction talk given in Htantabin Township

HTANTABIN, 21 April—As free crime month is being implemented in Zayatgyi Village-tract of Zayatgyi Police Station area in Htantabin Township from 1 to 30 April, an educative talk

on crime reduction was given at Basic Education Primary School in Ingyintha Village of Zayatgyi Village-tract at 10 am on 10 April.

Township Administrator U Maung Tha Nyunt,

Commander of Township Police Station Police Captain Myint Wai and Deputy Township Judge U Shwe Myint Aung gave talks on reduction of crimes.

Myanma Alin

FISH RELEASED:
Jivatadana fish releasing was held at South Meiktila Lake in Meiktila on 17 April. Deputy Commissioner U Sein Oak of Meiktila District General Administration Department, Township Administrator U Kyaw Swe and district and township level departmental personnel release fish into the lake.—KYEMON



Respects paid to the aged in Sangyoung Township

YANGON, 21 April—The Social Affairs Association of Shin Saw Pu Ward in Sangyoung Township organized the 10th ceremony to pay respects to older persons and to present prizes to outstanding students at

Shin Saw Pu Dhammayon on Shin Saw Pu Pagoda Road in Sangyoung Township on 17 April.

The local people presented cash assistance and gifts to 85 older persons of above 75 years old.

Patron of the association Ward Administrator U Kyaw Tint and members of the association presented prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination with flying colours.—Kyemon



TAXATION CLARIFIED: The clarification on taxation was held at Thuwunna Hall of Thaton Township in Mon State on 6 April. Head of Mon State Internal Revenue Department U Tin Tun Naing explains levying of tax.—TOWNSHIP IRD

Reforms of taxation clarified in Kawlin

KAWLIN, 21 April—Kawlin Township Internal Revenue Department of Sagaing Region made clarifications on reforms of tax collection system as of 2012-2013 fiscal year at Zartiman Hall of Kawlin on 9 April morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Myo Naung made a speech. Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Min Nwe explained amendments of rules and

regulations and notifications and directives on taxation to those present.

It was attended by Hluttaw representatives, township level departmental personnel, members of non-governmental organizations, companies, cooperative societies and private entrepreneurs.

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

Myanma Alin

GSM mobile phones worth K 200,000 on sales in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 April—GSM mobile phones worth K 200,000 with the number 09-4025xxx are put on sale by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications at Township Communication Stations in townships outside the municipal area of Mandalay Region as of 28 March.

GSM phones with number 09-40257xx are also sold in Mandalay City and Patheingyi Township at the Mandalay Region Manager Office of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, Mandalay General Post

Office, Nanshay Post Office, Yongyi Post Office, Telegraphic Office, Shansu Post Office, Pyigyidagun Post Office, Amarapura Exchange and Patheingyi Exchange.

The applicants must give three photos and copies of citizenship scrutiny cards.

As of the first week in May 2012, the GSM mobile phones may be taken across the nation. WCDMA telephone worth K 250,000 with applications to send voice file and photo file to

receivers will be sold soon. Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay

People in the queue to buy GSM mobile telephones worth K 200,000 each at Township Communication Centres in Mandalay.



TAKE FIRE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Desolation of Pakistan avalanche site

ISLAMABAD, 21 April — Half a dozen tattered yellow flags poke from a huge boulder-strewn expanse of gravel and ice. They mark where the buildings of Pakistan's Gayari Army base once stood. In the early hours of 7 April, thousands of tonnes of ice, rock and snow crashed down onto the camp, the battalion headquarters of the 6th Northern Light Infantry 4,000 metres (13,000 feet) up in the mountains of Kashmir.

The disaster that entombed 140 people has been described as an avalanche, but the dense, rocky rubble that now covers the camp to a depth of around 60 metres (200 feet) looks more like the aftermath of a landslide. The Pakistan army has been searching for the 129 soldiers and 11 civilians buried at the remote Gayari site for nearly two weeks and they insist they have not yet given up hope of finding survivors.

But it is almost impossible to imagine anyone surviving even the initial impact of such a weight of rock and ice — one of the boulders carried down the mountainside onto the site measures at least 30 metres across and 20 metres high. Yet the search goes on, with bulldozers and mechanical excavators — looking like children's toys against the immense mountains — ploughing through the debris. *Internet*



A Pakistani soldier works with a sniffer dog to search for avalanche victims during an ongoing operation at Gayari camp near the Siachen glacier on 18 April, 2012.

INTERNET

Body parts found strewn along passage

BEIJING, 21 April — Local police suspect that a costly drunken misstep caused the brutal death of a 27-year-old man, whose dismembered body was discovered along the Wuzhong Road passage shortly before the morning rush hour started on Thursday. The body parts, which belong to a man identified by his surname, Guo, were found around 6:45 am by commuters. The situation forced traffic police to block off the passage and other roads close by almost a half hour later for about two hours, causing major traffic jams in the area.

Police Thursday ruled out murder as the cause of death, saying that the man is believed to have fallen while intoxicated as he was climbing along the top of the passage to cross over to nearby Hongxu Road.

Upon falling, his body was likely run over by vehicles moving at high speeds, according to the preliminary findings of an investigation, said police. But, the case remains under investigation, said authorities.

The initial details on the case were released by police Thursday, after witnesses shared photos of the scene on their microblogs earlier — posts that were circulated more than 2,000 times on Sina Weibo in the span of several hours. —Xinhua



US space shuttle Discovery aboard a modified jumbo jet flies over Washington DC, the United States, on 17 April, 2012. —XINHUA

US shuttle Discovery makes final flight

WASHINGTON, 21 April — US space shuttle Discovery, the most-flown spacecraft in history, made its final trip and landed in the nation's capital on Tuesday where it will go on permanent display by the Smithsonian later this week. Before landing, the spacecraft soared around the Washington Monument and White House in a salute to the capital. It rode on the back of a modified Boeing 747 jumbo jet and took a spin around Washington at an easy-to-spot 1,500 feet before it was grounded for good.

The air- and spacecraft duo's four-hour flight left the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 6:58 am (1058 GMT), just after dawn. They landed at Washington Dulles International Airport at 11:05 am EDT (1505 GMT). The departure marked a final separation for Discovery and the Kennedy Space Centre, which had served as the shuttle's home base and launch site since 1983. Thousands also packed the National Mall to watch the pair swoop by. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and other former NASA astronauts and staff awaited the shuttle's arrival at Dulles. "People get emotionally attached to the shuttle," said Bolden. "You bet we do." Bolden flew two of his four space missions on Discovery, taking part in one of the most important deliveries: the Hubble telescope.

On Thursday morning, Discovery will be rolled over to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Centre, located adjacent to the airport, for a formal transfer ceremony. More than a dozen of the shuttle's former mission commanders, as well as Smithsonian and NASA officials, will take part in the public event, which will kick off a four-day "Welcome Discovery" festival at the northern Virginia museum. —Xinhua

NASA 1976 Mars mission discovers life

BEIJING, 21 April — A new research conducted by a team of American scientists provided evidences that the 1976 Mars mission found microbes on the planet, according to a report released Tuesday on the website of American National Broadcasting Company (NBC).

Four decades ago, NASA launched the Viking Mission to probe life on Mars, and then came to a conclusion that the red planet is lifeless.

After using the modern technology to reanalyze the data of 1976 mission, scientists

found the microbes in the collected Mars soil might be killed by mistake at temperature of 160-degree Celsius.

"I'm 99 percent sure there's life there," said team leader Dr Joseph Miller, a former NASA researcher and current associate professor in University of Southern California.

And the studies conducted by the team recently on methane emission on Mars also support the new finding, he said.

NASA's latest probe, Curiosity, is due to land on Mars in August, which will again search for signs of life on the planet. —Xinhua



An expressway linking Ankara and Konya is jammed by traffic accidents happened due to strong windstorm on 18 April, 2012. Heavy windstorm affected parts of Turkey on Wednesday, caused 4 dead and several injured. —XINHUA

Great Barrier Reef in danger

SYDNEY, 21 April — World Heritage Day in Australia has been marked by an attack on the newly elected state government responsible for the protection of the under threat Great Barrier Reef.

The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is listed under all four natural World Heritage criteria for its "outstanding universal value", but has recently been threatened by pollution, bleaching and agricultural run-off. The Australian Greens have described World Heritage Day as "a wake-up-call" to

save the internationally renowned GBR from the devastating impacts of mass dredging, dumping and fuel shipping exports.

"It's appalling that the greed for fossil fuel exports from both the Australian and the Queensland Governments could now see the Great Barrier Reef listed as World Heritage in Danger, which would put Australia on a par with war-torn countries as Yemen, Congo and Afghanistan," Environment spokesperson Senator Larissa Waters said.

The Great Barrier Reef

(GBR) stretches 2,300 kilometres along Australia's northern coast and includes a series of almost 3,000 unique reefs, and almost 1,000 islands, while the entire GBR Marine Park is 345,000 square kilometres in size — an area larger than the United Kingdom and Ireland combined.

Environmentalists here have been outraged by the government of newly elected Premier Campbell Newman and his early pursuit of economic ambition. Campbell has indicated a desire to de-list Gladstone

harbour from the World Heritage Area, where according to the Greens - dredging is already causing an environmental crisis.

The reef remains a massive attraction for capital associated with services from tourism to research indirectly employing some 67,000 people and contributing 7.1 billion US dollars annually to the Australian economy.

Waters said that on World Heritage Day, the government needed to rethink "this disastrous course of action" and stop issuing new approvals for dredging and dumping.

Xinhua

Rarest leopard making comeback

BEIJING, 21 April — The population of the Amur leopard, the rarest cat in the world, is showing signs of recovery, according to a report from the forestry department in Jilin Province and the World Wide Fund For Nature. "Thanks to (China's) enormous efforts to protect forests and crack down on poaching, the big cat appears to be rebounding in China," said Jiang Jinrong, an official from Jilin provincial forestry department. Earlier this year, the department, jointly with the WWF and Wildlife Conservation Society, performed an Amur leopard survey in the province's

Changbai Mountain area. The goal of the investigation was to confirm the big cat's habitat and population and make preparations for further protection.

The survey, which covers around 2,000 square kilometres, indicated that six female leopards, two male leopards and one cub are living in Northeast China's Jilin Province, home to one-fourth of the world's Amur leopard population. It also identified 12 of the leopard's important habitats. The leopard's habitat has expanded and is now three to four times larger than it was in the late 1990s.

"That's really a surprise, which indicates our efforts have paid off," said Jiang Guangshun, a senior official with the WWF who has studied the wild leopard and Siberian tiger for 20 years.

"The settlement of female leopards is the key indicator to evaluate how healthy the population is," he said. China has intensified the preservation of virgin forests and protection of wildlife in the past decade. In 2001, it set up the Hunchun nature reserve for wild Siberian tigers and leopards. The reserve is located in the border area between China, Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. —Xinhua



A female Amur leopard and its cub. —XINHUA

Japanese exports rise as car shipments surge in March

TOKYO, 21 April — Japan's exports rose in March, boosted by a surge in shipments of cars as the sector continues to recover from last year's natural disasters. Car exports rose 33.6% from a year earlier, with overall exports up by 5.9%, latest trade data showed. Japanese carmakers have also benefited from growing demand from key markets such as the US. Sales of cars and light trucks in the US rose 13% in March, with Toyota's sales up by 15% and Nissan gaining 13%.

Ryoji Musha of Musha

Research told the BBC that the "improvement of exports indicates that the Japanese and the global economy are recovering". Mr Musha added that the recent weakness of the Japanese yen had also played a part in boosting exports. The currency fell more than 8% against the US dollar between February and March this year, making Japanese goods more affordable to foreign buyers.

Japanese imports rose by 10.5% in March, resulting in a trade deficit of 82.6bn yen (\$1bn; £632m) during the

month. The jump was driven largely by a 21.8% increase in imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Japan has seen imports of LNG and other fuels rise in recent months. Last year it shut down almost all of its nuclear power stations in the wake of radiation leaks at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant after the earthquake and tsunami. As a result the country's electricity providers have been relying more heavily on thermal power plants, which require coal, oil and LNG to operate. Analysts said that growing imports of fuel are likely to affect Japan's trade numbers in the coming months. "Exports to the United States such as autos are unlikely to keep growing, while the levels of imports will remain high, driven by purchases of natural resources," said Hideo Shimamine, chief economist at Daiichi Life Research Institute. "It looks like we will be having trade deficits for the time being."

Internet



Car exports are a key contributor to Japanese economic growth. — INTERNET

Fitzwilliam Museum theft: Chinese jade art 'worth millions'

LONDON, 21 April — Thieves have stolen "valuable and culturally significant" Chinese works of art from a Cambridge museum. The 18 items, mostly jade and from the Fitzwilliam Museum's permanent collection, are believed to be worth millions of pounds. Cambridgeshire Police said a group of people were involved in the break-in at about 19:30 BST on Friday. A University of Cambridge museum spokesman said a thorough investigation of security measures is under way. "These works are a highly important part of our collection and their loss is a great blow," he said.

Forensic examinations have been carried out at the scene and CCTV footage is being examined. Police patrols have also been increased in the area around the museum. A spokeswoman for Cambridgeshire Police said the haul is thought to be

worth "millions of pounds". Det Ch Supt Karen Daber, leading the investigation called Operation Tundra, said a team of detectives was working closely with staff at the Fitzwilliam, the principal museum of the University of Cambridge.

"The items stolen are very valuable and are of great cultural significance, so we are absolutely committed to recovering them and bringing those who stole them to justice," she said. "In particular, we are keen to hear

from anyone who may have been in or around the Fitzwilliam Museum between 6pm and 8pm and may have heard or seen anything unusual or suspicious. "While this is an exceptional crime that we are taking very seriously, it is also worth remembering that this type of offence is extremely rare.

It follows a theft at the Oriental Museum at Durham University where Chinese jade and porcelain items were stolen.

They have since been

found and five people have been arrested and questioned about the raid. Mrs Daber refused to speculate on whether the two thefts were linked. Among the stolen items in Cambridge were six pieces from the Ming dynasty, including a jade 16th Century carved buffalo, a carved horse from the 17th Century and a green and brown jade carved elephant. A jade cup and vase which is carved with bronze designs was also stolen along with an opaque jade brush washer.

Eight pieces from the Qing dynasty were taken, and a table screen from the Qianlong period and a jug and vase from the 18th Century make up the rest of the stolen items. Their exact value has not been released. A university spokesman said the museum had a policy of not attaching monetary values to artefacts in its collection.

Internet



Items from various Chinese dynasties were taken.

INTERNET

Dengue fever kills 10 in southern Philippines

COTABATO, 21 April — Philippine health authorities reported Friday that at least 10 children had been killed by dengue fever in the first three months of the year in southern Philippines.

Abdullah Dumama, regional director of Department of Health, said about 1,300 cases of Dengue were recorded from several hospitals in the region since January.

The long-stayed rains and floods were the main causes of the rising incidence of the disease. Dengue is caused by mosquitoes. The disease causes an acute illness of sudden onset that usually

follows symptoms such as headache, fever, exhaustion, severe muscle and joint pain, swollen glands and rash.

Local health officials have called on the local governments and communities to step up campaigns against dengue fever. — Xinhua

Two soldiers wounded in leftist rebel ambush in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, 21 April — Two soldiers were wounded in an ambush by leftist rebels in this southern Philippine City early Thursday evening, the military said on Friday.

Troops on a two-vehicle convoy on their way to fetch doctors and other local health workers for a three-day medical mission were attacked by an undetermined number of New People's Army guerrillas in East Kibalang sub-village, Marilog District, Davao City, over 30 km from the city proper, around 6 pm, said Major Jacob Obligado, commander of the army's 10th civil-military battalion. — Xinhua



US Army soldiers from 4-73 Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, fire a mortar during a firefight with Taliban while on a mission in Zhary District of Kandahar Province, southern Afghanistan on 18 April, 2012. — INTERNET

NATO says concrete plans emerging for Afghanistan after 2014

BRUSSELS, 21 April — NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Wednesday he saw an "emerging agreement" among the alliance's members on what role they would play in Afghanistan once that country's forces take charge of security by 2015.

Speaking during a meeting of NATO allies in Brussels, Rasmussen said a number of member states had already pledged the size of

their financial contributions to help the Afghan government maintain security forces after 2014. "I am very pleased that a number of allies announced today concrete financial contributions to Afghan security forces in the future," he told a news conference, without specifying which countries or the amounts pledged.

Addressing photographs that appeared in an American newspaper of US

soldiers posing with the maimed bodies of dead Afghan militants, Rasmussen said: "I strongly condemn these photos and these acts ... I hope there will be no spillover." He also said NATO member Turkey has made no request for help in dealing with violence on its border with Syria, but that NATO was ready to consult on any security issues according to its rules.

Reuters

Hospitals overcharging for short-stay patients

LONDON, 21 April — NHS money is being wasted by hospitals in England wrongly charging the health service for treating short-stay patients, a watchdog says. The Audit Commission said hospitals could earn more than five times as much by recording them as inpatients rather than outpatients. Overcharging and the managerial rows it caused took up time and resources. The Department of Health said the NHS had to accurately record care given and it would work to improve this.

The NHS spends £6.8bn a year on short-stayers — 17% of the hospital budget. During its review, the Audit Commission took evidence from a small number of hospital trusts and management bodies over how they dealt with patients whose treatment lasted less than 24 hours. It found plenty of evidence of the same treatment being recorded as an inpatient in one hospital and an outpatient in another. One trust said the time spent dealing with the disputes

caused by the issue was taking up the equivalent of one staff member's entire workload.

But the watchdog said it was willing to give hospitals the benefit of the doubt, saying there did not seem to be systematic abuse of the system. Instead, the commission said it was more likely to be related to historic custom and practice. As medicine has developed, more and more treatment and recovery is being done during short visits rather than overnight stays. But hospitals were still classing them as inpatients — that is day patients who are admitted into hospital. And because they get more for them, they were reluctant to class them as outpatients and charge less. To illustrate the issue, the report gives an example of an 18-year-old boy who goes to hospital for a simple operation to remove a lesion. He only spends a short time in theatre and is then discharged.

Internet



Hospitals get paid more for treating inpatients than outpatients. — INTERNET



A trainer washes South Korean bull Kkolong after a fight at a bullfighting festival in Cheongdo, about 360 km (224 miles) southeast of Seoul on 18 April, 2012.

World's oldest living man celebrates 115th birthday

Jiroemon Kimura of Kyoto, Japan, the world's oldest living man, celebrated his 115th birthday. According to the Gerontology Research Group (GRG), an international body that specifically deals in longevity research, he is not only the world's oldest living man, but is the third-oldest man in recorded history.

"I'm delighted beyond words," Kimura said of his milestone. However, Kimura is not technically the world's oldest living person. That distinction belongs to Georgia resident Besse Cooper, who was born on 26 August, 1896.

Kimura has fathered 7 children (5 are still alive), has 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandchildren. He says eating small portions of food has been his secret to longevity. Kimura worked at a post office for 38 years before switching careers to become a farmer, which he was until he was 90 years old.

South Korean bullfighting is for bulls only

There is no blood, nor much gore. No matador, either, or even his colourful cloak. In South Korea, bull fights bull.

Weighing in at 600 kg to over 800 kg (1,322 to over 1,764 lb), dun-coloured Korean Hanwoo bulls clash heads and horns in a sand bullring under the warm sunshine of Cheongdo, a rural town in the hills about two hours from the capital of Seoul.

Once a regular village entertainment in South Korea, bullfighting nearly died out as the nation rapidly industrialized, but festivals like the annual Cheongdo Bullfighting Festival help keep the cherished tradition alive. "When I wake up, the first thing I do is train my bulls, letting them drag tires. Then, I feed them with nutritious porridge," said Lee Jin-gu, a 59-year old rancher who has trained fighting bulls for seven years.

"I once stayed in the pens,

sleeping next to my bulls for a week," said Lee, who had four of his prize Korean bulls fighting their way through to the quarter-finals. In all, 96 bulls are competing for the title of strongest bull during the festival, held on 18-22 April, for the top prize of 7 million won (\$6,200).

In one bout, last year's champion, "Fighting", clashed with "Ggolong", which means "Dullard," bellowing as he entered the ring and spectators cheered.

About three minutes of shoving amid the clattering of horns, billowing dust and shouting fans, their duel was finished. "Fighting" made it through to the next round as his defeated opponent gave way and trotted from the ring.

The festival in its current form has been going on since 1999, although North Gyeongsang Province has a history of the sport going back a thousand years.

Packets of Starbucks coffee are seen in a supermarket in Santa Monica, California, on 27 January, 2011.



Starbucks to phase out colouring from crushed beetles

Starbucks Corp said on its blog that it will stop using a natural, government-approved colouring made from crushed beetles in its strawberry flavouring by late June, bowing to pressure from some vegetarian customers.

Starbucks has been using the extract in its strawberry frappuccinos and smoothies, as well as some deserts like raspberry swirl cake.

"After a thorough, yet fastidious, evaluation, I am pleased to report that we are reformulating the affected products to assure the highest quality possible," Cliff Burrows, president of Starbucks US, wrote in a blog post. Instead, the coffeehouse chain said it plans to use lycopene, a natural, tomato-based extract.

Burrows said Starbucks "fell short" of customer expectations. One blogger in March began an online petition to pressure Starbucks to stop the practice.

Ground up cochineal beetles is a commonly used Food and Drug Administration-approved food colouring.

News Album

Jack White earns own stripes on solo album "Blunderbuss"

LOS ANGELES, 21 April—Jack White has earned his own stripes after early reviews of his solo debut album "Blunderbuss" praised the singer for his throwback feel and raw expression. The singer, best known for being one half of the Grammy-winning band The White Stripes, will officially release "Blunderbuss" next week, but a live stream of the album was made available online to listeners this week.

Recorded in Nashville, Tennessee, "Blunderbuss" is the first solo album from White, 36, who is also a member of The Raconteurs and the Dead Weather. The White Stripes, formed by White and his ex-wife Meg White, officially split in 2011 after 14 years together.



Singer and guitarist Jack White of The Raconteurs performs at the Coachella Music Festival in Indio, California on 25 April, 2008.

INTERNET

Much of White's allure lies in his eccentric persona and the mysteries surrounding his life, in the past letting imaginations run wild about his relationship with White Stripes drummer Meg White, who he once claimed was his sister, but was later found to be his ex-wife. Aesthetic presentation has also become a key element of White's music, who has become known for his trademark black and white color-block attire and Tim Burton-esque look.

Reuters

Levon Helm, longtime drummer in The Band, dead at 71

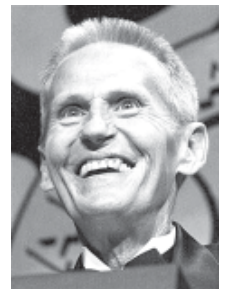
NEW YORK, 21 April—Levon Helm, the drummer for The Band whose twangy vocals brought a poignancy and earthiness to songs like "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" and "Up on Cripple Creek," died on Thursday at the age of 71 from cancer, his manager said.

The three-time Grammy Award winner had been fighting throat cancer since 1998.

"Levon Helm passed peacefully this afternoon," Helm's manager Barbara O'Brien said in a statement.

"He was surrounded by family, friends and band mates and will be remembered by all he touched as a brilliant musician and a beautiful soul."

Tributes immediately began pouring in from fans, popping up on Twitter at a fast rate.—Reuters



Musician Levon Helm attends the 22nd annual WC Handy Awards show in Memphis, in this 24 May, 2001 file photo.

INTERNET

Lionel Richie ousts Minaj for Billboard top spot

LOS ANGELES, 21 April—Veteran soul singer Lionel Richie knocked Nicki Minaj off the top spot of the Billboard chart on Wednesday as his country album "Tuskegee" made the rare climb to No 1, three weeks after its release.

It is uncommon for albums to climb to the top position in weeks following their release. Most chart-toppers tend to debut at No 1, but sales for "Tuskegee" remained steady since it entered the chart in late March at No 2.

Richie, 62, changed directions musically and embraced country music with "Tuskegee," collaborating with country stars such as Blake Shelton, Jason Aldean, Shania Twain and Willie Nelson on classic Richie hits.—Reuters



Singer Lionel Richie arrives at the 47th annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 1 April, 2012.—INTERNET

Dylan, Van Morrison headline Montreux jazz fest

CAUX, 21 April—Bob Dylan, Van Morrison and Anita Baker return to the Montreux Jazz Festival for the 46th edition that founder "Funky" Claude Nobs hopes will go on into the early hours with improvised jam sessions.

New talents Lana Del Rey and Ed Sheeran, as well as veterans Jane Birkin, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock and Tony Bennett are also booked at one of Europe's most prestigious music festivals that runs from 29 June -14



July along the shores of Lake Geneva. Dylan performs on July 8 for the first time here since 1998, with "Chicago Blues" opening for the American legend, now 71. "I heard Bob (Dylan) play in

Singer Bob Dylan performs during a segment honouring Director Martin Scorsese, recipient of the Music+ Film Award, at the 17th Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards in Los Angeles on 12 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET Geneva a few months ago and brought him some DVDs of Montreux. He was the one who said he wanted to come back to Montreux," Nobs told Reuters in his chalet in the village of Caux just above Montreux.—Reuters

Julianne Hough talks 'Rock of Ages' co-star Diego Boneta: 'He's beautiful'

HOLLYWOOD, 21 April—Julianne Hough is singing the praises of her "Rock of Ages" co-star, Diego Boneta and his luscious lashes.

"He is pretty sexy," the beautiful blonde told Access Hollywood of the charming Mexican actor at the US Weekly Hot Hollywood Style event in West Hollywood, Calif on Wednesday night. "I remember when he was auditioning for the movie I was like, 'He's got the most beautiful eyes and he doesn't curl his eyelashes!' and I'm very jealous."

"So, I just want to hire him so I can get his secrets about his eyelashes!" she added, laughing.

Beyond his beauty, Julianne says she thinks Diego will quickly rise to heartthrob status stateside once the Adam Shankman-helmed musical hits theaters.

"He's such a sweetheart and I think a lot of young girls are gonna fall in love with him," she said.

Watch Julianne and Diego (alongside Tom Cruise, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Alec Baldwin) in "Rock of Ages" — in theaters on 15 June.—Internet

Wenger: Arteta does not need surgery

Arsenal boss confirms midfielder will miss rest of season after spraining ankle against Wigan



Mikel Arteta has scored six goals for Arsenal since joining the club from Everton last summer.

INTERNET

LONDON, 21 April — Arsenal have received positive news on Mikel Arteta's ankle injury with manager Arsene Wenger saying the midfielder does not require surgery. Wenger confirmed that the 30-year-old Spaniard will miss the rest of the Barclays Premier League campaign with an ankle injury picked up in the

early stages of Monday's defeat by Wigan Athletic. But the Gunners boss said the influential midfielder, who has been in fine form for Arsenal since moving to London from Everton last summer, had nothing more serious than a sprain.

"It is season over for him but he doesn't need surgery,

which is what we were scared of," said Wenger ahead of Saturday's League match against Chelsea. "So he will be out for six to eight weeks. It is an ankle problem but just a sprain." Aaron Ramsey, who replaced Arteta against Wigan, is likely to come into the side for the Chelsea contest. Wenger revealed that Abou Diaby could be included in the squad as he battles back from a hamstring problem.

Diaby has suffered with injuries all season and has made only two League appearances this campaign. "He is back in the squad," added Wenger.

"He played one half on Wednesday [in a friendly] and he will be all right now I think. "We still have to be a bit cautious with him because we had so many setbacks. If all goes well he will be in the squad." — *Internet*

Curtis beats storms, takes Texas Open lead

SAN ANTONIO, 21 April — Ben Curtis can't pick his schedule like the old days. The former British Open champion, whose status has sunk near the lowest on the PGA Tour, now waits for the phone to ring to find out whether tournaments can squeeze him in. But heading into the weekend, at least, he's back in control. Wrapping up his second round at the Texas Open just before a two-hour storm delay left behind a stiff wind that protected the early leaders, Curtis shot another bogey-free 5-under 67 on Friday to finish at 10 under. He was two strokes ahead of David Mathis and three in front

schedule that you want, you don't have it all laid out in front of you before the year starts, you're kind of playing when you can. It's hard."

In his first time playing TPC San Antonio, Curtis has looked right at home after starting the year in Dubai and hopping around on the European Tour.

The Texas Open is just his fourth PGA Tour stop because of his low conditional status following a miserable 2011, when he didn't muster a top-10 finish for the first time since joining the tour in 2003.

Internet



Ben Curtis watches his drive on the 18th tee during the second round of the Texas Open golf tournament, on 20 April, 2012, in San Antonio.

INTERNET

of Cameron Triangle and Matt Every. Mathis matched Curtis with a 67, Triangle had a 65, and Every was poised to inch even closer before darkness suspended play. He'll line up for an 11-foot birdie chance on the par-4 17th when second-round play resumes Saturday. Blake Adams (69), Ryan Palmer (69) and Hunter Haas (74) were tied for fifth at 4 under. "We'll see how it goes over the weekend," Curtis said. "When you're not playing the

Caster Semenya qualifies for 800 at London Games

JOHANNESBURG, 21 April — Former world champion Caster Semenya qualified for the 800 metres at the London Olympics on Friday. The South African eased concerns about her early season form by running 1 minute, 59.58 seconds in a provincial meet on her home track at the University of Pretoria. It was the second time she ran faster than the qualifying time of 1:59.90, making her eligible for her first Olympics when South Africa's team is likely announced in July. "I have to win a gold [at the Olympics]. That's what I want," Semenya said. "My dream is to win the Olympics, and that's my plan. I feel OK because now I can run good races again, run faster. Qualifying for the Olympics, it's a good step forward." The 21-year-old

Semenya first ran in under 2 minutes while winning silver at last year's world championships in South Korea. She failed to break 2 minutes in her first two races this year, including the successful defence of her national title, but found her form in a dominant win Friday with help from Namibian pacemaker Herunga Tjipekapora. Tjipekapora led Semenya through about 450 metres before giving way. Semenya's nearest challengers finished well behind, with Monique Stander almost three seconds back in second.

Semenya burst onto the scene by winning at the 2009 worlds as a teenager in a blistering time of 1:55.45 before a gender test controversy sidelined her for 11 months. Semenya has



Caster Semenya competes in the 800m for women at the Yellow Pages Athletics meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, on 20 April, 2012.

INTERNET

overcome a string of setbacks since her stunning international debut.

Internet

International Sports

Man City boss Mancini wary of Wolves

City manager warns team to prepare for a tough match at Molineux on Sunday

MANCHESTER, 21 April — Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini says he is not taking anything for granted as his title-chasing side take on relegation-threatened Wolverhampton Wanderers this weekend. City, currently in second place in the Barclays Premier League table and five points behind leaders Manchester United with only four matches left to play, travel to Molineux on Sunday to play Wolves, who are five points adrift at the bottom. But despite the difference in League positions, Mancini believes Terry Connor's men will provide stiff opposition.

"For us it is important to finish well this season," said Mancini. "We want to try to win the next game. "It will be difficult. Wolves are bottom of the table but it will be a tough game, we need to play like we did against Norwich. "I

watched their games against Arsenal and Manchester United, and after they conceded goals they found it difficult but when they started they were playing at 100%. Because of that they are going to make it tough for us." Wolves are likely to have Dorus de Vries in goal for his first Premier League start after Wayne Hennessey was ruled out for six months with a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament injury.

And Connor says he has full confidence in the Dutch keeper. "He had to play some

time and he's been working diligently for the last nine months waiting for his chance," said the Wolves boss. "There are times when he's been frustrated because he wanted to play, like every player, but now his chance has come and I've said to him: 'This is your moment, this is what you've been training for.' " Wolves may be in a perilous situation at the wrong end of the table but Connor insists his side have not given up the fight against relegation.

Internet



Man City recorded a hard-fought 3-1 win over Wolves at the Etihad Stadium in October.

INTERNET

Dortmund on verge of another Bundesliga title

With an eight-point lead and three games left, victory against Gladbach would give Dortmund the title for the second year running, but Reus wants to ruin the party for his future employees. "Of course we want to," said Reus, who will join Dortmund on a 17.5m euros transfer. "We are just one point behind (third-placed) Schalke and there is still everything to play for. "As far as I am concerned, Dortmund are 99 percent champions, congratulations to them. "But we want to take the three points and we have a great opportunity to take third place."

Reus can expect a warm reception from the Dortmund defence with centre-back Neven Subotic admitting he is glad not to have to halt Reus in the future. "Playing against him is a huge challenge for any defence," the Serbia international told Kicker. "I am glad that Marco is coming to us. He has a great technique and is incredibly fast." Having sealed a 2-1 win over Real Madrid in the Champions League semi-final first leg on Tuesday, second-placed Bayern Munich return to domestic action and must focus on Werder Bremen.

Internet

Overweight Gardner ends bid for Olympic comeback

NEW YORK, 21 April — American wrestler Rulon Gardner, who overcame long odds to win a 2000 Olympic gold and later survived two death-threatening incidents, has ended his bid to qualify for the London Games, he said on Friday. Gardner, 40, elected not to weigh in for this weekend's US Olympic wrestling trials in Iowa when he missed the 120 kilogram (264.5 pound) limit for the heavyweight division by five pounds (2.3kg), he said in a statement.

"I'm disappointed I didn't make the weigh in," said Gardner, who also won a bronze medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics. "I worked hard. I was within five pounds. I'm glad I did this and have my health back." His weight had ballooned to

more than 470 pounds before he lost more than 170 on a reality television show in 2011 and decided to make a wrestling comeback. Gardner grabbed international headlines at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 when the Wyoming farm boy stunned Russian Aleksandr Karelin for the gold medal. Karelin had not lost a match in 13 years. — *Internet*



Gardner of the US kneels on the mat after bronze medal win in men's Greco-Roman wrestling bout at Athens 2004 Olympics.

INTERNET

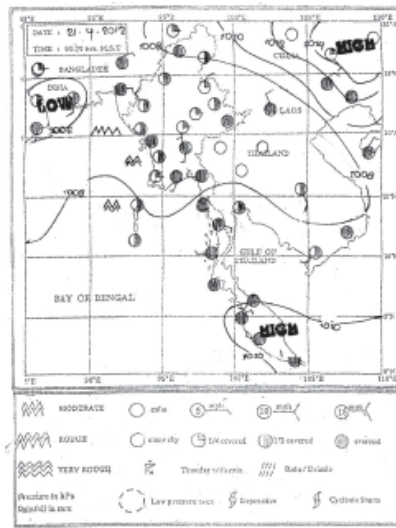
Focus Myanmar TV Programme**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**(22-4-12 09:30 am ~
23-4-12 09:30 am) MST

- News
- Hand Down Arts Heritage
- News
- Music
- News
- The more you see, the more you learn (Episode-2)
- News
- "Thingyan Road Trip 2012" Day (1) Yangon
- News
- MI People's Celebrities "Housewife is Vital Role"
- News
- Serenely Pleasant Pindaya
- Myanmar Traditional Pavilion Painting
- News
- The Garden of Arts Where Various Flowers Bloom
- News
- Flight Training Seminar
- Myanmar Movie "The Director"

MYANMAR TV

(22-4-2012)(Sunday)

- 7:00 am**
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:50 am**
2. Nice and Sweet Song
- 8:40 am**
3. International News
- 11:00 am**
4. Martial Song
- 11:30 am**
5. How It's Works
- 12:00 pm**
6. Myanmar Video
- 2:00 pm**
7. Teleplay (Health)
- 2:50 pm**
8. International News
- 4:40 pm**
9. Dance Of National Races
- 5:00 pm**
10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 7:00 pm**
11. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
12. News
13. Teleplay
14. New Melody

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**Weather forecast for 22nd April, 2012**

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		Forecast	Percent
		Maximum	Minimum		
1	Kachin	35/95	28/88	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	36/97	28/88	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
3	Kayah	38/100	24/75	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chin	25/77	14/57	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	36/97	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	41/106	26/79	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	24/75	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	38/100	26/79	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
9	Magway	42/108	27/81	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	40/104	29/84	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	37/99	26/79	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	38/100	24/75	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	33/91	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	32/90	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	35/95	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	37/99	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	38/100	25/77	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	41/106	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	38/100	24/75	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	42/104	29/84	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kayah State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Region and State. Day temperature were (7°C) to (45°C) above April average temperatures in Magway Region, Eastern Shan and Kayah States, (7°C) to (6°C) above April average temperatures in Southern Shan and Chin States and about April average temperatures in the remaining Region and State. The significant day temperature were Chank (46°C), Nyaung U and Minbu (44°C) each, Myingyan, Magway and Pakokkye (43°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Bawlaikhan (0.08) inch.

Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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

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

Members of MCWSC, WAO donate blood

YANGON, 21 April—Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Women's Affairs Organization collectively participated in blood donation at National Blood Bank in Latha Township on 19 April.

Present on the occasion were Patrons of the Region Committee and Organization,

Chairpersons of Region, District and Township Associations and Organizations, blood donors, totaling 250. The patrons and responsible persons gave words of encouragement to blood donors and presented refreshments to them.

At the ceremony, 94 blood persons donated blood.

Kyemon

**Answers for Yesterday's Crossword Puzzle****NLM-ner Joke****Careful when you wish**

Two men died and went to Heaven. St Peter greeted them, and said "I'm sorry, gentlemen, but your mansions aren't ready yet. Until they are, I can send you back to Earth as whatever you want to be."

"Great!" said the first guy, "I want to be an eagle soaring above beautiful scenery!"

"No problem," replied St. Peter, and POOF! The guy was gone. "And what do you want to be," St. Peter asked the other guy.

"I'd like to be one cool stud!" was the reply.

"Easy," replied St. Peter, and the other guy was gone.

After a few months, their mansions were finished, and St. Peter sent an angel to fetch them back. "You'll find them easily," he says, "One of them is soaring above the Grand Canyon, and the other one is on a snow tire somewhere in Detroit!"

Newcastle 3-0 Stoke City:**Cabaye double boosts Champions League bid as Toon tide washes Potters aside**

LONDON, 21 April—Yohan Cabaye produced a midfield masterclass as Newcastle cruised past Stoke to edge themselves closer to Champions League qualification.

**Yohan Cabaye celebrates scoring Newcastle's first goal.**

The France international scored twice and provided the glorious pass from which striker Papiss Cisse took his tally to 11 goals in 10 games in a stunning individual display.

His contribution helped to claim a sixth successive Barclays Premier League victory for the Magpies which leaves them four points clear of

Cisse made it 2-0 with a cool finish four minutes later, but Cabaye's second, an inch-perfect curling shot 12 minutes after the restart, was the pick of the bunch on an afternoon when the bulk of a

crowd of 52,162 headed for home dreaming of Europe.

Newcastle ran out knowing victory would take them into fourth place, for a few hours at least, but perhaps more importantly, give them a healthy advantage over sixth-placed Chelsea. The return of Cheick Tiote provided added steel in the midfield, but what promised to be a battle developed into something of a stroll.—Internet

Results on Saturday, 21 April, 2012

Arsenal 0 - 0 Chelsea
A. Villa 0 - 0 Sunderland
Blackburn 2 - 0 Norwich
Bolton 1 - 1 Swansea
Fulham 2 - 1 Wigan
Newcastle 3 - 0 Stoke

Blackburn 2 - 0 Norwich

LONDON, 21

April—

Blackburn

gave

their survival

hopes

a

massive boost

with a com-

fortable victory

over a lacklustre

Norwich side.

Steve Kean's men

moved level on points

with QPR, but

stay in the relegation

zone due to a worse

goal difference.

Mauro Formica

converted a pin-point

Morten Gamst

Pedersen cross in the

first half, before

Junior Hoilett's

superb curling effort

in the second. Jonny

Howson came closest

for Norwich when his

long-range strike was

tipped over the bar

by Paul Robinson.—Internet



Respects paid to older persons, fish released in Hpa-an

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—A ceremony to pay respects to older persons took place at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 17 April.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min and wife Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Aung Kyaw Min, the Chief Justice of the State High Court, the deputy speaker of the State Hluttaw, state ministers and their wives, state, district and township level departmental officials and members of social organizations paid respects and donated gifts to 234 older persons at the age of 85 and above.

A grandpa and grandma gave words of advice. The

specialist from Kayin State General Hospital gave health care services to the older persons. After that, they were transported to pagodas in Hpa-an and shown development of the town by car.

The State Chief Minister and party, together with departmental officials and members of social organizations attended the fish releasing ceremony at Kanthaya Lake in Hpa-an. They released 150,000 fish into the lake.

In the afternoon, the State Chief Minister and party paid homage to abbots of monasteries in Hpa-an and presented offertories to them. At the hall of the state government, they attended the Parittas recitation ceremony.—MNA

Significant Day Temperatures (21-4-2012)

Chauk	(46°C)
NyaungU	(44°C)
Minbu	(44°C)
Myingyan	(43°C)
Monywa	(43°C)
Pakokku	(43°C)

Myanmar weightlifting delegation leaves for ROK

YANGON, 21 April—A delegation of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation comprising Vice-President of MWF U Aung Chit, General Secretary U Myint Swe and medical officer Dr Mya Lay Sein of the federation led by President of the federation U Thet Lin left Yangon International Airport by air yesterday evening to attend the Congress of Asian Weightlifting Federation

to be held in Pyeongtack of the Republic of Korea on 22 and 23 April.

Members of the delegation U Myint Swe and Dr Mya Lay Sein will discharge duties as technical officials at the Asian Weightlifting Championship to be held in conjunction with the Congress of AWF up to 30 April.

MNA

Exams to be held for IT development

YANGON, 21 April—Myanmar Computer Federation, in its drive for IT development in Myanmar, will help ITPEC hold Fundamental IT Engineer Exam and IT Passport Exam on 29 April.

Those who have matriculated with thirst for IT, those with basic IT knowledge and those working in practical field with IT

application are recommended to take the exam.

Those wishing to sit for the exam may enquire further information at MCF in Myanma Infotech in Hline Township, Ph: 652307 and Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, Ph: 652276 and 73088300.—MNA

Accelerating climate change exerts strong pressure on Europe's mountain flora

SCIENCE DAILY, 21 April — A pan-European study published in Science shows that mountain plants across the continent are moving to higher altitudes. This often results in raised species numbers on mountain tops, when colonizers from lower down start to dwell on the summits. This study, however, also shows that upward shifts can lead to a reduction in species richness. The paper is based on detailed surveys of 66 mountain summits distributed between the north of Europe and the southern Mediterranean Sea. An international research group, led by the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Vienna, mapped all plant species at each site in 2001 and 2008 using the same standardized procedures.



The study was coordinated by Harald Pauli, Michael Gottfried, Stefan Dullinger and Georg Grabherr.

Increasing species numbers were only found on summits of northern and central Europe. By contrast, species numbers were stagnating or declining at nearly all sites in the Mediterranean region. Harald Pauli from the Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA) programme, which coordinated the study, said, "Our results showing a decline at the Mediterranean sites is worrying because these are the mountains with a very unique flora and a large proportion of their species occur only there and nowhere else on Earth."

On summits further north in Europe, more plant species are prospering. This could be taken to indicate that these are much safer sites for alpine flowers. Michael Gottfried from GLORIA's coordination team said, "I'm afraid that this is not necessarily the case because the newly appearing plants are predominantly more widespread species from lower elevations and will pose increasing competition pressure on the rarer cold-loving alpine flowers."—Internet

Fed Cup: Williams puts USA 2-0 up in Ukraine

KHARKIV, 21 April—Serena Williams put the United States into a commanding 2-0 lead in the Fed Cup World Group play-off tie with Ukraine at Kharkiv on Saturday by beating Elina Svitolina 6-2, 6-1.

The 30-year-old Williams was never troubled by her teenage opponent who she was playing for the first time.

"It was a tough match against a strong opponent," Williams said.

"Don't look at the scoreline as it was much harder that it may appear. My opponent, a young and talented 17-year-old player has a bright future, I believe. It was very interesting to play against her today."

"I will definitely play against (Lesia) Tsurenko tomorrow. And I will do my best to win the third deciding point for my country."

Williams looked confident from the start producing three breaks of serve in the opening set to take it in 30 minutes, while Svitolina managed to break back only on one occasion.

In the second set Williams moved up a gear to break her opponent's serve three times for a commanding 5-0 lead before Svitolina chalked up her first point also with a break.

But in the next game Williams produced her fourth break to take the set and the match in one hour.

Speaking about her London Olympics prospects the 13-time Grand Slam champion Williams said: "I'm set to go to London in July and I'm out to win a gold medal there."

In Saturday's opening rubber Christina McHale put the United States 1-0 ahead with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 win over Lesia Tsurenko in two hours 14 minutes.—Internet



Elina Svitolina plays in the girls' singles at the 2010 US Open. Serena Williams, who beat Svitolina 6-2, 6-1 in the Fed Cup on Saturday, is a "strong opponent."

INTERNET



In this photo provided by NASA, the NASA 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft moves into place for mating underneath the space shuttle Enterprise for transport to New York at Washington Dulles International Airport, on 20 April, 2012, in Sterling, Va.

PAGE 4

Rarest leopard making comeback



PAGE 11



Caster Semenya competes in the 800m for women at the Yellow Pages Athletics meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, on 20 April, 2012.

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