

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XX, Number 14

14th Waxing of Kason 1374 ME

Friday, 4 May, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union

* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity

* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Chairman of Governing Body of ILO

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May— Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Mr. Greg Vines, Chairman of Governing Body of International Labour Organization (ILO) at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of the Hluttaw Complex here at 11:15 am today.

Present at the meeting together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, and members of the Legal Affairs and Special Case Assessment Commission of Pyithu Hluttaw.

They focused on matters related to continued implementation of labour laws enacted by the Pyithu Hluttaw and seeking ways to promote the cooperation between Myanmar and ILO.

MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Mr. Greg Vines, Chairman of Governing Body of International Labour Organization (ILO), and party at meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds discussion with Inter-Parliamentary Union delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May— Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Ms. Norah Babic of Inter-Parliamentary Union at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of the Hluttaw Complex here at 1:30 pm today.

Present at the call together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairmen of the committees of Pyithu Hluttaw, secretaries, and members of the commission.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on assessments for providing necessary assistance to the Hluttaws by IPU.—MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives a delegation led by Ms. Norah Babic of Inter-Parliamentary Union at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



KASON, Sacred month of Triple Auspiciousness

PAGES 7 + 8

Journalists must have right to present diversity of views and stances as well as unity based on national interest



PAGE 8



The Miss China Tourism International Contest 2012 kicked off in Guangyuan, a city of southwest China's Sichuan Province on 1 May. Contestants from 60 countries to compete for the final title and the chance of being image ambassador for the city.

PAGE 12



Real Madrid players celebrate after their win over Athletic Bilbao to win the Spanish first division league title at San Mames Stadium in Bilbao.

PAGE 14

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 4 May, 2012

Keep our fine tradition

Every country in the world has their own traditions and customs. Myanmar has long been in existence with her own cultures and literature since many centuries. Myanmar with a population of 60 million, which is home to 135 national races, has a rich history of religion, literature, culture and dress. Today is the age of globalization. With the rapid development of IT, cultures from other countries are penetrating into our country through media. Thanks to the media, we can know what is happening in the world in a short time.

Nowadays, it is impossible for a country to practise closed-door system. We must open the doors to get enough oxygen and light. Opening doors brings the good and the bad things to the country. Due to cultural imperialism, the tradition and cultures of countries in the world are disappearing. We must be well aware of it. Some people's bad behaviors could tarnish the images of Myanmar culture. These days, Myanmar youths, even girls, drink alcohol and beers. These events could be seen a lot during this year Thingyan festival.

Some people say that Thingyan Festival is becoming alcohol drinking festival. These days, it is not a strange thing to see young ladies enjoying beer together with men. It is not a Myanmar tradition. And, some young girls' dress style is a real eyesore. Other countries' dresses would not be suitable for Myanmar culture. We should imitate good things from other countries but not others.

Due to the recent changes, the country would be likely to receive a flood of tourists soon. So, foreign visitors could have assumed that those behaviors are Myanmar's tradition and looked down on us. Thus, we must show what our tradition is and keep in our minds that we are Myanmar. We should follow the word "Think Globally, Act Locally". Let's keep our fine tradition.

Danger of narcotic drugs educated in Mohnyin district

MOHNYIN, 1 May— "Mohnyin district sees a growing number of trafficking and use of narcotic drugs among local residents and migrant workers who are working in jade and gold mines of Mohnyin district, Kachin State, north of Myanmar," said the Commander of Kachin State Police Force, at the press conference held at Mohnyin District General Administration Department on 4 April.

Mohnyin, Mogaung and Phakant Townships and Hoping and Kamaing sub-townships that included in Myitkyina District, are formed as Mohnyin district

in 2004. The Police Force also faces difficulties in holding the growing number of prisoners as there are no Myanmar Correctional Department and jails, he added.

A total of 300 prisoners are housed in Phakant Police Station, 140 in Mohnyin and 100 in Moegaung Police stations. Most of them are dealing with narcotic drug cases.

As part of its attempt to accelerate educative works, a number of educative signboards are posted at main areas so as to be aware of danger of narcotic drug.

NLM 001

Deputy NPED Minister attends ASEAN Road Show in Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May— A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw attended the ASEAN Road Show of the ASEAN economic ministers held in Tokyo and Sendai in Japan from 25 to 28 April.

At the discussions on tasks implemented for economic recovery after natural disasters, the deputy minister read out the message on rehabilitation tasks being carried out in Myanmar after the natural disasters.

This was followed by a general round of discussions covering the discussions of the Thai Commerce Minister on economic conditions in Thailand after the floods, the Japanese Rehabilitation Permanent Secretary on economic rehabilitation after the earthquakes in eastern Japan, Miyagi Governor Mr Yoshihiro Murai on efforts for economic recovery after the earthquakes in the southern Japan, Professor Fukunari Kimura of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asian on impact on supply chain networks, Director-General Mr Shinya Ejima of Japan

International Cooperation Agency on sustainable development, and ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General Dr Lim Hong Hin on the participation of ASEAN in setting up of social



Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw attends ASEAN Road Show in Sendai and Tokyo of Japan.—MNA

organizations for rehabilitation of damage and loss due to natural disasters.

The deputy minister together with the ASEAN economic ministers called on Japanese Prime Minister Mr

Myanmar, India to promote bilateral relations and cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May— Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin received Ambassador of the Republic of India to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri at his office, at 8:00 am today. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation.—MNA

Yoshihiko Noda on 26 April.

The deputy minister on 27 April attended the ASEAN Investment Forum held in Tokyo and meeting on establishment of free trade zone for economic integration

between ASEAN and East Asian nations. On 28 April he attended the meeting on cooperation policy between ASEAN-Japan Government and private sectors.

MNA

KIA (Kachin) armed group withdraws from battle with No. 1002 BGF (Headquarters) suffering heavy loss

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May— KIA (Kachin) armed group, to save the face for its declining military prestige,

occupy Panwa Sub-township which is a border town, establish their stronghold and seize control over other

businesses, raided No. 1002 Border Guard Force (Headquarters) under the command of Directorate of People's Militia and Frontier Forces near Lupi Village, Panwa Sub-township, Kachin State in mass on 27 April.

The commander and members of the Border Guard Force and their families defended the KIA's offensive with great valour as mobile military columns joined them just in time to repel the KIA attack. 29 April saw 11 battles big and small including counter-attack of the military columns. Suffering heavy losses, members of KIA armed group retreated to the south and

west of No. 1002 Border Guard Force (Headquarters).

The military columns are in hot pursuit of fleeing members of the armed group. Till 3 May, 14 weapons, 29 bodies and mountains of ammunition and mines have been seized and one captured from KIA (Kachin) armed group side. Two soldiers from the military sacrificed their lives in the battlefield and three officials and 12 soldiers were wounded. An old foodstuff warehouse of No. 1002 Border Guard Force (Headquarters) was totally damaged in the bombard fire and staff-quarters partially damaged by bullets of heavy weapons and arms.

KIA armed groups, along their way, arrested 345 villagers from 23 villages, to use as porters, said the two escapees.—MNA



Photo shows one arrested member of KIA (Kachin) armed group.—MNA

KIA (Kachin) blasts three bridges in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May— Kachin armed group has sabotaged transportation facilities in Kachin State, harming the interests of the people living in the state.

A KIA group blasted Dunban Bridge on the Myitkyina-Chepwé Road around mid-night on 1 May, leaving about 2-foot crater on the floor of the bridge.

Similarly, Lanna concrete bridge on the Waingmaw-Hsaddon-Kanpaikti Road was blown off by KIA yesterday, damaging about 20-foot of the floor of the bridge.

Besides, they blasted a bailey bridge near Warazut Village on the Myitkyina-Tanaing Road yesterday.

About two-foot part of the floor of the bridge was damaged and iron beam under the floor was bowed in the blast.

The destructive act of the KIA has hindered the transportation and caused loss to the economy of the local people.—MNA

Taleban fighters attend a surrender ceremony in Herat Province, west of Afghan Capital of Kabul, on 2 May, 2012. About a dozen of Taleban fighters gave up fighting and joined the government-initiated peace process in Afghanistan's Herat Province on Wednesday, the spokesman of the provincial government said.—XINHUA



Gunman kills four in Phoenix suburb, commits suicide

GILBERT, 3 May — A gunman, identified by local media as a prominent border militia leader and a reputed neo-Nazi, shot dead four people including a toddler girl in Arizona on Wednesday before apparently committing suicide, police said. The gunman opened fire at a house in Gilbert, a suburb of Phoenix, Gilbert Police Sergeant Bill Balafas said. He could not immediately confirm the identity of the gunman. *The Arizona Republic* newspaper, citing unnamed police sources,

identified the suspected shooter as Jason "JT" Ready, a reputed neo-Nazi who founded the US Border Guard, a militia that hunts for drug traffickers near the Mexican border. The youngest victim, a girl of between 1 and 2 years old, was still alive at the scene, but later died in a hospital, Balafas said. The other dead were two women and two women. Police believe the shooter was among the dead. Police found the bodies of two of the adults outside the home and those of the other two adults and the child inside.

Officers recovered two handguns and a shotgun from the scene. However, Balafas said police had been unable to search the house, and confirm the identities of the dead after an unknown liquid was found in two 55-gallon drums outside the house. "Right now, we have a hold up because we have a potential hazardous chemical situation," Balafas said. Investigators subsequently found some "munitions" in the house, and called in federal officers to deal with the items, Balafas said.

MNA/Reuters

Cuba, Kuwait agree to fight water shortage in Havana

HAVANA, 3 May—Cuba and the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development signed an agreement here Wednesday to jointly undertake the renovation of the water supply network in Havana, where half of the city's population of more than two million is suffering from the effects of a long drought worsened by aging infrastructure, Cuba's official media reported. The agreement was signed by Kuwait Fund Director General Abdulwahab Al-Bader and Cuba's National Institute of Water Resources (INRH), with the

presence of Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Rodrigo Malmierca, among other officials, according to the official online Cubadebate.

Al-Bader described the project as "large, difficult and complex" and added "its implementation will require years of work," Cubadebate reported. The project marks the third time Cuba and Kuwait join forces to renovate water supply and sewage networks throughout the Caribbean island nation. The Kuwait Fund helped finance two similar projects in the

eastern regions of Santiago de Cuba and Holguin.

Havana is currently suffering from a lack of water due to drought and outdated infrastructure that could not be fixed because of an economic crisis. In some areas of the capital, pipes and other installations are more than a century old. Today, more than 45,000 city residents depend on water trucks for their water supply. According to official data from the INRH, about 70 percent of the 196,229 miles of pipeline in Havana is in very poor condition, leading to the loss of 60 percent of the water pumped from reservoirs, while another 16 percent is squandered in homes.—Xinhua



Police officers investigate a tarp-covered body at the scene of a shooting in a residential area of Gilbert, Arizona on 2 May, 2012. Local newspapers reported five people killed. REUTERS

Gunmen fire on Nigeria cattle market, 56 dead

MAIDUGURI/ABUJA, 3 May—Gunmen set off explosives and fired on a cattle market in remote northeastern Nigeria overnight, killing at least 56 people, a nurse who received bodies in the local hospital said on Thursday.

The police commissioner put the number of dead at 34.

It was not clear who was behind the attack on Wednesday night in the town of Potiskum, in Yobe state, which has been an occasional target for militant Islamist sect Boko Haram.

"I have counted 56 bodies at the morgue and I am sure that the death toll could rise in view of the serious nature of injuries sustained," the nurse at Potiskum hospital, who gave his name as Babangida, said.

"The Potiskum mortuary is made up of a room and a parlour and I counted the 56

in the parlour only. I didn't go into the inner room."

Police Commissioner Moses Namiri said security forces had confirmed 34 killed and that Islamist sect Boko Haram was suspected to be behind the attack.

"Everybody knows the modus operandi of BH (Boko Haram): they threw explosives and used guns," he said.

"The gunfire lasted for almost an hour."

Witness Mama Yusuf, a retired civil servant, said there were dead bodies on the ground, though he could not say how many.

"I saw dead bodies all around the place and the emergency services taking people to hospitals," he said.

Boko Haram has been fighting a low-level insurgency for more than two years and has become the main security threat facing Africa's top oil producer,

although it is far from any oil producing facilities.

It usually targets police or authority figures, and although civilians have increasingly borne the brunt of its attacks, they are normally targeted for being a perceived enemy of the group, such as Christians, rather than being randomly killed.

Sometimes violence in Nigeria, especially in parts of the north or the volatile Middle Belt—where the largely Christian south and Muslim north meet—is driven by ethnic rivalry over land and resources that has little to do with the Boko Haram attacks.

Boko Haram, which wants to impose an Islamic state on Nigeria's mixed population of Muslims and Christians, has been blamed for hundreds of killings since its uprising against the government began in 2009.

MNA/Reuters

Twelve people killed in clashes in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 3 May — At least 12 people were killed on Wednesday during clashes between troops and armed drug gangsters in the northern Mexican state of Sinaloa, an official source said.

The State Attorney General's Office said in a statement that the incident occurred on Wednesday morning in the town of Guasave, where 10 suspected gangsters and two soldiers were killed. The military said the gunmen ambushed an army patrol using grenades, automatic weapons and an armored vehicle. Federal,

state and municipal police reinforced the military operation and repelled the assailants.

This is the second clash between soldiers and gangsters in a week in Sinaloa. Last Saturday, 15 people died in the town of Choix, including 13 gunmen, a soldier and a policeman.

The clashes came just hours after Governor Mario Lopez announced a tougher strategy to combat organized crime groups. "An operation is under way to ensure that calm and security return to the Guasave area," he said, denying that the authorities

were losing control of security in the state.

Violence has been escalating in the northwestern state, which is dominated by the Sinaloa cartel, the country's most powerful drug gang, led by Mexico's most wanted fugitive, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

Mexico is plagued by drug-related violence escalating in the northwestern state, which has left more than 50,000 dead since President Felipe Calderon launched a "war against organized crimes" in 2006.

Xinhua

President Hu: China, US should break traditional belief of big powers' conflicts

BEIJING, 3 May — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday called on China and the United States to break the traditional belief that big powers will enter into conflicts, and seek new ways to develop relations between major countries.

Hu made the remarks when addressing the Opening Session of the fourth round of China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogues (S&ED) on Thursday morning in Beijing.

"Whatever changes may take place in the world and no matter how the domestic situations in our two countries may evolve, China and the United States should be firmly

committed to advancing the cooperative partnership and build a new type of relations between major countries that is reassuring to both peoples from China and the United States and people across the world," Hu said.

To build such a new type of relations between China and the United States as two major countries, we need to think creatively, he said.

Forty years ago, China and the United States made a creative move by issuing the Shanghai Communiqué, said Hu, adding that the Communiqué, which both affirmed the shared views of the two countries and listed their differences truthfully,

established the basic principles guiding China-US relations.

Hu said that China and the United States are now in the second decade of the 21st century, and the both sides need to advance with the times in our thinking, policies and actions. "We should, through creative thinking and concrete steps, prove that the traditional belief that big powers are bound to enter into confrontation and conflicts is wrong and seek new ways of developing relations between major countries in the era of economic globalization," he said.

Xinhua



China's aircraft carrier returned to Port of Dalian on Monday after completing its 11-day sea trail which began on 20 April.—XINHUA

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Documents reveal clues to ancient weather

MADRID, 3 May—Writings by Arab historians offer a chronology of climatic events in the Middle East from 816 to 1009, when cold waves and snow were normal, researchers say.

A team led by Spanish scientists has interpreted records written in Iraq that chronologically narrate social, political and religious matters but also mention climate. The researchers focused on ancient meteorological notes of the Iraqi City of Baghdad, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology reported on Monday.

"We have recovered an

interesting chronology of climatic events, such as droughts, floods, rain, frost, heat and cold waves as well as strong winds during the period between 816-1009 in the areas now known as Iraq and Syria," Fernando Dominguez-Castro of the University of Extremadura said.

The period had a high number of cold waves, he said.

"The period between 902 and 944 had a high number if we compare them to current weather data," he said.

Dominguez-Castro said six snowfalls occurred in the



Baghdad was the most prosperous place at the time and the centre of international trade and agricultural development.—INTERNET

region during that period, while only one snowfall is known to have occurred "in our era," on 11 Jan 2008.

The documents reveal the cold climatic events in Baghdad were more frequent and more intense during the

first half of the 10th century than those of today.

"The Arabic records are very useful for reconstructing the climate in eras and places about which we know very little," the researchers said.

Internet

New radiation detector said security boost

ATLANTA, 3 May—Scientists at Georgia Tech say they are working on technology that can bolster US security by effectively detecting smuggled radioactive materials.

Terrorists attacks involving nuclear devices or materials are a concern, they said, so enhanced detection capabilities would be welcome at ports, border crossings, airports and elsewhere. "US security personnel have to be on guard against two types of nuclear attack — true nuclear bombs, and devices that seek to harm people by dispersing radioactive material," principle project investigator Bernd Kahn said in a Georgia Tech release on Tuesday. "Both of these threats can be successfully detected by the right technology."

The researchers, using novel materials and nanotechnology techniques to produce improved radiation detection, have developed a device dubbed a Nano-photon Composite Scintillation Detector. When gamma rays or particles strike a scintillation detector, they create light flashes that are converted to electrical pulses to help identify the radiation.

The prototype Georgia Tech device combines rare earth elements and other materials at the nanoscale for improved sensitivity, accuracy and robustness, researchers said.—Internet



A staff member demonstrates a helicopter model at Hobby Expo China 2012, a model fair held at the Beijing Exhibition Centre, in Beijing, capital of China, on 30 April, 2012. Opening here on Monday, the four-day event attracted some 300 manufacturers of models and related products worldwide.—XINHUA

Sponge-like material fights jet noise

TUSCALOOSA, 3 May—A sponge-like material that can reduce the noise of combustion could make work environments safer and extend the life of equipment, US researchers say.

This technology lessens the noise generated by combustion systems such as those in a jet engine at the source by placing a sponge-like material directly in the flame, University of Alabama mechanical engineer Ajay K Agrawal, who has patented the material, said.

The combustion process in jet engines produces a deafening noise that can also be devastating to the engine, as sound waves can shake the engine and result in mechanical failure, a university release said on Tuesday.

This porous inert material, a foam made of hafnium carbide and silicon

carbide, which can withstand intense levels of heat and pressure, is placed directly into the flame and acts like a sponge for the noise, Agrawal said.

The foam allows gases to easily flow so combustion is not interrupted, yet is much quieter.

It surrounds the flame, cuts the noise and eliminates the potential for engine instability, he said.

"Experimenting with combustion can be quite noisy and unstable, shaking the whole building, but when you put the foam in place, you can talk to the person next to you. It's a night and day difference," Agrawal said.

The foam reduces noise at its source, minimizing the need for bulky and expensive modifications to exhaust equipment, he said.

Internet

Caribbean lizards face extinction threat



An Anguilla Bank skink. Blair Hedges and his team have discovered and scientifically named 24 new species of lizards known as skinks.

INTERNET

Mac Flashback attack stole ad revenue

CUPERTINO, 3 May—The Flashback attack on Mac computers brought criminals \$10,000 a day in stolen ad revenue by redirecting clicks from infected systems, US experts say.

Researchers at security software vendor Symantec said attackers behind the Flashback malware were stealing advertising revenue from Google by redirecting clicks from users of infected systems so ad revenue from those clicks went to the cyber-criminals not Google, eWeek.com reported on Tuesday.

"The Flashback ad-clicking component is loaded into Chrome, Firefox and Safari where it can intercept all GET and POST requests from the browser," Symantec said in a blog post.

"Flashback specifically targets search queries made on Google and, depending

on the search query, may redirect users to another page of the attacker's choosing, where they receive revenue from the click."

Revenue from the intended ad click never reached Google, the researchers said. As many as 700,000 Apple Macs worldwide were infected by the Flashback malware at its height, Symantec said.

The Flashback malware began as a Trojan horse masquerading as an update to Adobe Flash, and then a subsequent version infected unprotected systems that visited a malicious Web site.

"Not much detail has been said about the ad-clicking component, so we will reveal the true motivation behind the malware: the end goal of this Trojan is revenue generation," the Symantec Security Response team wrote in the company blog.

Internet

Fossilized crane footprints found

CENICERO, 3 May—Scientists say 25-million-year-old fossil footprints found in northern Spain were made by a previously unknown species of bird in the crane family.

Based on the footprints found in the La Rioja Region of the country, the species has been named *Uvaichnites riojana*, *ThinkSpain* reported on Monday.

The tridactyle or three-toed bird is an "important discovery" in scientific terms, the Spanish researchers said.

Although there is very little evidence of the presence of this family of birds on the Iberian Peninsula, the finding could confirm the presence of cranes from the early Miocene period, Felix Perez Lorente of La Rioja University said.

The central toe of *Uvaichnites riojana* is about 4 inches long, suggesting the bird would have been "relatively large," he said. The footprints were discovered during construction work on a cellar in the town of Cenicero, where 14 blocks of sandstone with fossilized footprints from numerous different vertebrates were found, re-searchers said.—Internet



Sandstone block with fossilized bird footprints.

INTERNET

UNIVERSITY PARK, 3 May—Twenty-four new species of lizard were recently discovered in the Caribbean and almost half are already close to extinction, researchers say.

A team led by Blair Hedges, a professor of biology at Penn State University, discovered and named the 24 species of lizards known as skinks, an article in the journal *Zootaxa* reported.

"Now, one of the smallest groups of lizards in this region of the world has become one of the largest groups," Hedges said.

"We were completely surprised to find what amounts to a new fauna, with co-occurring species and different ecological types."

These New World skinks arrived in the Americas about 18 million years ago from Africa by floating on mats of vegetation, he said.

Though long established in the Caribbean, almost all of the identified species now face extinction,

Hedges said, primarily to predation by the mongoose — an invasive predatory mammal introduced by farmers to control rats in sugarcane fields during the late nineteenth century.

"The mongoose is the predator we believe is responsible for many of the species' close-to-extinction status in the Caribbean," Hedges said.

"Our data show that the mongoose, which was introduced from India in 1872 and spread around the islands over the next three decades, has nearly exterminated this entire reptile fauna, which had gone largely unnoticed by scientists and conservationists until now."

A sharp decline in skink populations coincided with the introduction of the mongoose, he said.

"By 1900, less than 50 percent of those mongoose islands still had their skinks, and the loss has continued to this day," Hedges said.

Internet

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Simple device can help babies with tragic heart flaw

PARIS, 3 May—A cheap, simple device widely used to monitor blood oxygen can help save newborn babies with congenital heart defects, a study in *The Lancet* determined on Wednesday.

Congenital heart flaws account for between three and 7.5 percent of all infant deaths, but surgery greatly improves the chances of survival, especially if the problem is detected at the earliest stages.

Doctors led by Shakila Thangaratnam of Queen Mary University of London looked at published research into pulse oximetry, in which a small monitor is placed on the fingertip or toe to check

levels of oxygen in arterial haemoglobin.

It works by comparing the differences in red light, which is absorbed by oxygenated blood and infrared light, which is absorbed by deoxygenated blood.

Oxygenation levels are given instantly, in a digital display. Thirteen studies covering nearly 230,000 newborn babies were included in the trawl.

Pulse oximetry detected 76.6 percent of congenital heart defects and had a rate of just 0.14 percent of "false positives", a term meaning the times when the device

wrongly signalled a problem when in fact the infant was healthy.

The risk of a "false positive" was even lower when the baby was tested more than a day after birth, rather than within the first 24 hours, the paper said.

Pulse oximetry is a useful, non-invasive early warning test for babies who do not have obvious symptoms of cardiac problems, say the researchers.

Infants that are spotted as being at risk can then be diagnosed by echocardiography and, if needed, treated by surgery.

Pulse oximetry for



newborns is an issue that has been hotly debated in medical circles, with some experts saying its reliability is unproven. United States is the only country to use it as a routine screening tool.

But the new study says the evidence is now emphatic, as pulse oximetry has been tested on more than a quarter of million infants, 100,000 more than in 2009 when the last review took place.—*Internet*

Unemployment rate peaks in eurozone

BRUSSELS, 3 May—The unemployment rate in the 17-member eurozone rose to a record 10.9 percent in March, the European Union's data office said on Wednesday.

The unemployment rate in the 17-countries that share the euro as currency rose for the second consecutive month, hitting the highest level since the eurozone was created in January 1999. For the 27-member European Union, the unemployment rate, also up for two consecutive months, hit 10.2 in March, the statistics agency said. Eurostat said 24.77 million men and women in the EU were without work, 17.36 million of whom live in the eurozone. Compared to February, the number of unemployed has risen by 193,000 in the European Union and by 169,000 in the eurozone. Compared with March 2011, the number of unemployed is up by 2.12 million and 1.73 million, respectively. The countries with the lowest unemployment rates in the region are Austria at 4 percent, the Netherlands at 5 percent, Luxembourg at 5.2 percent and Germany at 5.6 percent.

The highest unemployment rate in the EU is in Spain with a rate of 24.1 percent. In Greece, the rate rose in the month from 21 percent to 21.7 percent.—*Internet*

US business job growth disappoints



A jobs sign is seen on the front of the US Chamber of Commerce building.—*INTERNET*

WASHINGTON, 3 May—US business added a meagre 119,000 jobs in April, payrolls firm ADP reported Wednesday, lending credence to fears that the labour market has hit a soft patch.

Expectations had been for a rise of around 170,000.

The figures are seen as a harbinger of official unemployment statistics, which will be released on Friday.

Both figures are eagerly

awaited. Investors, policy-makers and ordinary Americans have been confounded by a string of uneven data, and are looking for some definitive sign about the direction of the recovery.

This is likely to be seen as a confirmation of things heading in the wrong direction.

March's disappointing ADP report, showing 209,000 jobs were created, was revised down to 201,000.

Internet

China, Japan, S Korea to enhance regional financial cooperation

MANILA, 3 May—China, Japan and South Korea have agreed to enhance the regional trilateral financial cooperation during the 12th Trilateral Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting of China, Japan and South Korea held in Manila on Thursday.

The senior financial officials of the three countries exchanged views on various issues, including the current macroeconomic situation and regional financial cooperation.

The attendees reaffirmed their commitment to enhance trilateral financial cooperation and promote the bilateral currency swap arrangements among the three countries, which was considered to be significantly beneficial to stability of regional financial markets. The three countries also agreed to promote the investment by the foreign reserve authorities in one another's government bonds, further strengthen the

cooperation, including information sharing, and thereby enhance economic relationship among the countries.

The delegates from the three countries said in a joint statement released after the meeting that they were aware of the remaining uncertainties of the global economy and the potential downside risks.

To achieve strong, sustainable and balanced economic growth, the three

countries would committed to continue implementing appropriate macroeconomic policies, including promoting fiscal soundness, expanding domestic demand, increasing employment and accelerating structural reforms, the document said. The meeting, which was hosted by Japanese Finance Minister Jun Azumi, was attended by the central bank governors of the three countries for the first time.—*Xinhua*



A Chinese investor monitors share prices at a securities company in Shanghai.—*REUTERS*

Aspirin works as well as blood thinner in heart patients

LONDON, 3 May—Aspirin works as well as the blood thinner warfarin, or Coumadin, in most patients with heart failure when it comes to preventing death,

stroke or brain hemorrhage, said a major international study on Wednesday.

The findings published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* came from a landmark clinical trial that lasted 10 years and tracked 2,305 patients in 11 countries.

The combined risk of death, stroke, and cerebral hemorrhage was 7.47 percent per year for patients taking warfarin, and 7.93 percent per year for those taking aspirin, a difference that researchers said was not statistically significant.

Patients taking the blood

thinner had half the stroke risk of people taking aspirin, but warfarin patients had double the risk for major bleeding, and so those two factors cancelled each other out, researchers said.

There was some evidence among warfarin patients followed for four years or more that the blood thinner may have superior benefits in warding off death, stroke or brain hemorrhage but more analysis is needed, the study said.

"Since the overall risks and benefits are similar for aspirin and warfarin, the

patient and his or her doctor are free to choose the treatment that best meets their particular medical needs," said lead investigator Shunichi Homma of Columbia University Medical Centre.

"However, given the convenience and low cost of aspirin, many may go this route."

Heart failure can hike the risk of blood clots that may cause stroke. Aspirin prevents the blood from clotting and warfarin, available by prescription, thins the blood.

Internet

Health Tip: What constitutes 'healthy eating'?

When you commit to healthy eating, it means more than choosing fresh veggies over French fries. It's changing the way you eat, too.

The American Diabetes Association offers these guidelines for healthy eating:

- *Choose a variety of healthy foods, including lean meats, fresh vegetables and fruits, whole grains and non-fat dairy products.
- *Limit portion sizes.
- *Avoid eating too much of the same type of food.
- *Eat meals regularly throughout the day at evenly spaced intervals.
- *Don't skip any meal.

Internet

Aspirin works as well as the blood thinner warfarin, or Coumadin, in most patients with heart failure when it comes to preventing death, stroke or brain hemorrhage, said a major international study on Wednesday.—*INTERNET*





A Jaguar symbol is seen outside the Jaguar Land Rover's Halewood assembly plant in Liverpool, northern England, on 2 March, 2011. — REUTERS

Tata's Jaguar Land Rover to invest in UK plant

LONDON, 3 May — Luxury car maker Jaguar Land Rover, part of Indian group Tata Motors, plans to invest 200 million pounds in a plant in central England, the *Daily Telegraph* reported on Thursday.

The investment at the factory, which will build Jaguar's new F-type sports car, is expected to create up to 1,000 jobs and increase its capacity by 50 percent, according to the article.

The newspaper said, without citing sources, that the car maker is looking to start work on expanding the plant swiftly. *Reuters*

107 charged over Medicare fraud in US

WASHINGTON, 3 May — The US authorities have charged 107 doctors, nurses and other medical professionals with Medicare fraud in a nationwide crackdown involving about 452 million US dollars, the highest amount in a single takedown, officials said on Wednesday. The takedown by Medicare Fraud Strike Force operations in seven cities involved the highest amount of false Medicare billings in a single takedown in its history, US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said.

About 59 people in Miami, seven in Baton Rouge, 9 in Houston, 8 in Los Angeles, 22 in Detroit were charged for submitting false billing, for medical services including home health, psychotherapy and infusion therapy, among others. According to court documents, the defendants allegedly participated in schemes to submit claims to Medicare for treatments that were medically unnecessary and often never provided. In many cases, court documents allege that patient recruiters, Medicare beneficiaries and other co-conspirators were paid cash kickbacks in return for supplying beneficiary information to providers, so that the latter could submit fraudulent billing to Medicare for services that were medically unnecessary or never provided.

"The results we are announcing today are at the heart of an administration-wide commitment to protect American taxpayers from health care fraud, which can drive up costs and threaten the strength and integrity of our health care system," said US Attorney General Eric Holder. Since their inception in March 2007, Strike Force operations in nine locations have charged more than 1,330 defendants who collectively have falsely billed Medicare for more than 4 billion US dollars. *Xinhua*



Little Tokyo, also known as Little Tokyo Historic District, is an ethnic Japanese American District in downtown Los Angeles and one of only three official Japantowns in the United States. — XINHUA

'Scream' fetches record \$119.9m at NYC auction

NEW YORK, 3 May — One of the art world's most recognizable images — Edvard Munch's "The Scream" — sold on Wednesday for a record \$119,922,500 at auction in New York City. The 1895 artwork — a modern symbol of human anxiety — was sold at Sotheby's. Neither the buyer's name nor any details about the buyer was released. The previous record for an artwork sold at auction was \$106.5 million for Picasso's "Nude, Green Leaves, and Bust," sold by Christie's in

2010.

Munch's image of a man holding his head and screaming under a streaked, blood-red sky is one of four versions by the Norwegian expressionist painter. The auctioned piece at Sotheby's is the only one left in private hands. The image has become part of pop culture, "used by everyone from Warhol to Hollywood to cartoons to teacups and T-shirts," said Michael Frahm of the London-based art advisory service firm Frahm Ltd. "Together with the Mona

Lisa, it's the most famous and recognized image in art history."

A total of nine works now have sold for \$80 million or more at auction, according to Sotheby's. Besides "The Scream" and Picasso's "Nude, Green Leaves, and Bust," only two other works have sold for more than \$100 million at auction. Those are Picasso's "Boy With a Pipe (The Young Apprentice)" for \$104.1 million in 2004 and Alberto Giacometti's "Walking Man I" for \$104.3 million in 2010. — *Internet*



In this undated photo provided by Sotheby's Auction House in New York, "The Scream," Edvard Munch is shown. *INTERNET*

US private company delays launch to space station

WASHINGTON, 3 May — The US private company SpaceX announced on Wednesday that the launch of its Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station has been delayed due to software glitch. "At this time, a 5/7 (7 May) launch is unlikely," SpaceX announced through its twitter account. "We will issue a statement as soon as a new launch target is set." SpaceX was aiming for a Monday liftoff of its Falcon rocket and Dragon capsule. Issues with the software responsible for controlling the automated spacecraft

are assumed to be responsible for the latest delay. The earliest possible launch date would be next Thursday. Otherwise, SpaceX will need to wait until the Russians send a new crew to the space station on 15 May.

SpaceX aims to be the first private company to send its own spacecraft to the space station on a cargo mission. NASA used to stockpile the space station through the space shuttles, but the fleet was retired last summer. The space agency wants commercial providers to take over that role. — *Xinhua*



Folk actors perform Tibetan Opera at Norbulingka Park in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 1 May, 2012. The traditional Tibetan Opera performance attracted lots of citizens and tourists during the May Day holidays. *XINHUA*

Eating fish, nuts may lower risk of Alzheimer's disease

WASHINGTON, 3 May — Eating foods that contain omega-3 fatty acids, such as fish, salad dressing and nuts may be associated with lower blood levels of a protein related to Alzheimer's disease and memory problems, according to a new study published Wednesday in online issue of *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

For the study, 1,219 people older than age 65, free of dementia, provided information about their diet

for an average of 1.2 years before their blood was tested for the beta-amyloid. Researchers looked specifically at 10 nutrients, including saturated fatty acids, omega-3 and omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids, mono-unsaturated fatty acid, vitamin E, vitamin C, beta-carotene, vitamin B12, folate and vitamin D.

The study found that the more omega-3 fatty acids a person took in, the lower their blood beta-amyloid levels. Consuming one gram of omega-3 per day (equal to

approximately half a fillet of salmon per week) more than the average omega-3 consumed by people in the study is associated with 20 to 30 percent lower blood beta-amyloid levels.

Other nutrients were not associated with plasma beta-amyloid levels in the study. The results stayed the same after adjusting for age, education, gender, ethnicity, amount of calories consumed and whether a participant had the APOE gene, a risk factor for Alzheimer's disease. *Xinhua*

China to use nano-material to improve power grid safety

BEIJING, 3 May — China will further industrialize the use of a new material developed with the help of nanotechnology to ensure the safety of its power grids, according to a Wednesday statement from the National Centre for Nanoscience and Technology (NCNT).

The NCNT said the material has undergone strict testing and technical evaluations and will be used to solve the problem of flashover, a phenomenon in which energized conductors inadvertently come into contact with other conductors or a grounded surface.

Flashover has been a persistent safety problem in China's power grids.

Other projects based around the use of the new material are in the research phase and will eventually be applied to China's power grids on a large scale, the NCNT said.

The material was created in 2009 after three years of research by the NCNT, the Institute of Process Engineering under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the China Electric Power Research Institute. *Xinhua*

KASON, Sacred month of Triple Auspiciousness

By Ba Than

Obeisance to the Omniscient, The Compassionate One,

The All Knowing One, The Supreme Self-Enlightened One.

Kason Festival is one of the most venerable ceremonies celebrated not only in Myanmar but also in other Asian Buddhist nations and those professing Theravada Buddhism, or Path of the Elders namely: Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka. The UN also commemorates the Vesak Day in Buddhist Forum on 15th May of 2011. The UN International Council also held the Vesak Day in Thailand too. It is commonly known as Vesak Festival, representing three most important events of Lord Buddha's life, the Birth, the Enlightenment and the Parinibbana. However the younger generations seem to regard the Kason as the festival for pouring water at the sacred Banyan Tree or Bodhi Tree (*urostigma religiosum*) under whose shade Lord Buddha Gautama attained Supreme Omniscient Self-Enlightenment in 528 B.C. The author surmises that this praying the Guardian Spirit (*Rukkha Deva*) for the gift of a son, and propitiating it when the gift is fulfilled is popular among the Hindu faith flourished thousands of years ago in India preceding the enlightenment of Buddhism. Veering more towards deity worship it seems to be popular among us too. Thus the author makes it a mission to present faithfully in the following article about Kason and its unique features as recorded in the Chronicles of Buddha.

The Full Moon Day of Kason

In the calendar of Buddhist festivals, Kason the second lunar month is the most auspicious. It is April-May by the Gregorian calendar. This month is governed by the Visakha planet. Taurus, the Bull is the sign of the solar zodiac. Myanmar astrology names the month as 'Prisha'. Kason is most revered because three most important events in the Chronicle of Lord Buddha Gautama the Omniscient, Supreme Self-enlightened One falls on this month of Kason.

It is most important for the Buddhists to note that it was on the full moon day of Kason aeons of years ago that Lord Dipankara Buddha delivered a divine prophecy to the hermit Sumeda that he would achieve Supreme Enlightenment as Lord Gautama Buddha, the fourth Buddha in the Badda Kappa. Since that moment, Hermit Sumeda fulfilled the morality, virtues, knowledge and wisdom in his aspiration for Buddhahood.

The First Auspicious Event of Kason Full Moon Day

It was on this Kason full moon day of Visakha, Friday, in the year 68 of Maha Era, (563 B.C.) that Bodhisatta, Buddha-to-be was born to King Suddhodana and Queen Maha Maya Devi of Kapilavutthu Kingdom as Prince Siddhattha. This royal birth took place in the royal lumbini grove under the fragrant Sal tree (*pentacme siamensis*). For the new-born Bodhisatta this life was to be the last existence in the *samsara* of unending cycles of rebirth, old age, infirmity and death. Endowed with supreme omnipotence He slid down from the tender care of Brahma celestial beings, Deva deities, Kings and royalty and stood firmly on the earth soil. The Bodhisatta surveyed all the four directions and then facing the northern direction He paced seven steps forward. He then delivered the first most memorable utterance '*purima Buddha vacana*', echoing the universes. The original words were quoted in the canonical scriptures in Pali. The author most humbly presents the Bodhisatta's resounding proclamation in plain English prose for all readers in English to understand the depth of the message. At that moment of time all the Brahmas, Devas and human beings stood in complete silence, awaited expectantly what the Bodhisatta was going to say! The Bodhisatta uttered thus in fearless roar:

1. *I am the most superior among the living beings of the three worlds.*
2. *I am the greatest among the living beings of the three worlds.*
3. *I am the most exalted, among the living beings of the three worlds.*
4. *This is my last birth.*
5. *There is no more rebirth for me.*

(The three worlds: world of humans, world of devas, world of brahmas)

The Second Auspicious Event of Kason Full Moon Day

Prince Siddhattha spent adult years in pomp and pageantry, opulence and luxury, fame and glory, a life of self indulgence and sensuality. Then at the prophetic age of 29, he observed the four specters or omens: the old, the

sick, the dead, and the recluse. The Prince thus contemplated and realized on the futility of birth, old age, sickness, death and desires for sensual pleasures. He then renounced the worldly life in the year 97 Maha Era (534 B.C.) and sought an ascetic life of rigorous practices for 6 arduous years. Such extremely difficult severe austerities and self mortification was pursued by Bodhisatta, Buddha-to-be in his last existence, to no desired fruition.

After realizing that such severe practices did not lead to Enlightenment and cessation of all sufferings, Bodhisatta came to perceive that another mode of practice, mindful meditation, Anapana (controlled breathing) and concentration would be the correct basis of insight. In life the Bodhisatta had enjoyed the caral pleasures of sensuality on one extreme, and 6 years of ascetic practice of self mortification and denial on the other extreme end. Now He sought moderation, chose the middle path '*majjhima patipada*' leading towards ultimate realization of Omniscient Supreme Enlightened Buddhahood.

It was the 14th waxing day of Kason of the year 103, Maha Era (528 B.C.) past midnight, approaching dawn that the Bodhisatta dreamt five great dreams. He himself interpreted the solemn meaning and concluded that he would certainly attain Buddhahood that very day, the full moon day of Kason.

At daybreak, the morning of the full moon day, the Bodhisatta cleansed himself, and proceeded towards the banyan tree and sat at the foot, facing east, in supreme meditation. Prophetically it was the day that Sujata daughter of a wealthy man Maha Sena of the market town of Sena near Uruvela forest grove was to offer the yearly ritual of Ghana milk rice to the Guardian deva of the tree, in a golden bowl. She had been paying homage to the guardian deva since the last twenty years when her prayers for a propitious marriage, and gift of a son was fulfilled. Lady Sujata personally prepared the Ghana milk rice that morning for the noble offering to whom she regarded as her Guardian Deva.

It was customary for the Bodhisatta to receive the offer of alms food of Ghana milk rice put in a golden bowl on the day He was to attain Buddhahood. At precisely meal time Sujata approached the Bodhi banyan tree and saw Bodhisatta seated most venerably with holy radiance around him. She was overjoyed on seeing Bodhisatta, mistook Him to be her guardian deva, and most respectfully offered the choicest meal with the golden bowl, uttering words of supplication. The Bodhisatta accepted the alms of milk rice. He rose from His seat and proceeded to the bank of Neranjara River. He took bath and sat facing east under the cool shade of a tree. He prepared 49 morsels and partook of the nutrients. Then making a resolution that if He were to attain Buddhahood that day, may the golden bowl float upstream against the current. Prophetically the golden bowl floated upstream and sank in a whirlpool. The Bodhisatta realized his supreme wish would be fulfilled that very day, on the full moon day of Kason in the year 103 Maha Era (528 B.C.)

Bodhisatta spent the afternoon under the shade of the tree in meditation. In the evening, He proceeded to the Maha Bodhi one of the seven connatals appearing or being born in the precise moment of birth of the Bodhisatta. He then contemplated on the best direction to be seated in His final meditation towards supreme fulfillment, attaining Enlightenment, cessation of suffering, ultimate end of the cycles of Samsara and realizing Buddhahood. The Bodhisatta finally chose the direction facing eastward as the most propitious exalted position. On his way towards the Maha Bodhi tree he received eight handfuls of grass, donated by Sotthiya the Brahmin grass cutter. The Bodhisatta walked to high ground of the sacred tree, and selected the most auspicious direction of victory, the east, where the earth stood firm unshaken and untitled. Then He scattered the grass at the base of the holy tree. At that moment a jewelled Aparajitta throne appeared from the sacred site. The Bodhisatta seated himself on the invincible throne in cross-legged posture, with the Maha Bodhi Tree as a backdrop, face to the east, steadfast mind, resolute determination and sacred vow never to concede defeat until Buddhahood was attained.

Presently Vasavatti Mara, or Devaputta Mara the evil god, who had been stalking the Bodhisatta all along, now openly declared war, riding on the huge battle elephant '*Girimekhala*' leading hordes of followers, determined to defeat the Bodhisatta, attacking Him with all weapons from all directions. Reflecting on noble truth, compassion and fulfillment of paramis, the Bodhisatta finally vanquished Mara the evil, before sunset on the full moon day of

Vesakha (Kason) in the year 103, Maha Era. Finally at daybreak the Bodhisatta attained Omniscience, Supreme Self-enlightenment, and became a genuine Lord Buddha Gautama. He was also revered as the All Knowing, All Compassionate, Sugata, Tathagata, Samma Sambuddha. The sacred Maha Bodhi Tree where the Lord Buddha attained Enlightenment (*urostigma Religiosum*) connatural Maha Bodhi became a sacred relic of worship.

Joyful Solemn Utterance

Lord Gautama Buddha, having attained Omniscience and Supreme Self-Enlightenment and endowed with all the attributes and glories of Buddhahood reflected thus:

"I have been emancipated from the enormous suffering of Samsara. I have achieved the most exalted state of perfectly Self-Enlightened One, teacher of the three worlds. I have achieved a great victory. I am the only one who can liberate all the sentient beings from the shackles of the three worlds by preaching the Dhamma."

With such exalted reflection Lord Buddha experienced exulting joy (piti) and uttered two verses. This is known as the first words of Buddha beginning in Pali (language of the Scriptures) with... *Aneka jati samsara*. The author humbly supplicates Lord Buddha in rendering the sacred utterance in translated English verse quoted from Dhammapada thus, as *Pathama Buddha Vacana*:

"Through worldly rounds of births

And deaths, vainly seeking,

I ran my course, unceasingly

In search for the builder of the House,

Painful is the birth, again and again.

Oh house builder, I behold thee now

Again a house, thou shalt never build,

All thy rafters are smashed and broken.

The ridge pole is also destroyed,

My mind, its element dissolved.

I have now entered the unconditioned state.

The end of craving is attained."

The Third Auspicious Event of Kason Full Moon Day

Lord Buddha Gautama, the Omniscient, Self-Enlightened One attained Buddhahood at the age of 35. During the Supreme Ministry of teachings in Tipitakas namely : *Vinaya* disciplinary code of conduct; *Sutta* discourses, and *Abhidhamma* higher doctrines of philosophy, lasting 45 vassa, Lord Buddha had delivered and admonished innumerable monks and lay disciples into arahathood and deliverance from unending rounds of birth and death. Such teachings and utterances are called '*Majjhima Buddha Vacana*.'

In the 80th year of Lord Buddha's life in this last existence, the Omniscient One traveled slowly and most painfully, due to aging and affliction of diseases, to Kusinara, the kingdom of Malla dynasty of Kings, where the Compassioned One would enter into *Khanda Parinibbana*, the cessation of the five aggregates of existences on the fulfillment of nibbana. On arrival at Kusinara, Lord Buddha rested by reclining on the readily laid jewel-studded couch set between the two sal trees, *Ingyn*(*pentacme siamensis*), with holy head lying in the easterly direction and facing the northerly direction, never to rise again.

Even in the final hours on the Kason full moon day of the year 148 Maha Era (483 B.C.) Lord Buddha admonished the Malla Kings and royalty in the early hours of the night. The Compassioned One then delivered sermons to the Subadda Hermit to help attain the arahathood, the last to become an arahat in this Buddha's Sasana, at midnight. Then in the early hours approaching dawn Lord Buddha delivered the last audience to the assembled Order of the Sangha.

Lord Buddha, the Supreme Self-Enlightened One gave permission to the thousands of monks in the Sangha assembly, from the arahats to the common novices, to pose questions, to speak out suspicions, doubts, delusions so that they would be cleared. Such matters touch on the discourses, practices, doctrines, morality and teachings in general. The main focus was to dispel remorse for not having asked the Compassioned One when alive. Exaltedly there was no voice of dissent as complete silence prevailed. For three times the *Tathagata* asked the assembly, and for three times silence prevailed signaling consensus, construing the fact that there was no iota of doubt or dissent in His teachings in the entire course of 45 years of Buddha's Supreme Ministry.

(See page 8)

Journalists must have right to present diversity of views and stances as well as unity based on national interest



On behalf of Union Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win delivers speech at World Press Freedom Day 2012.—MNA

YANGON, 3 May—Organized by the Ministry of Information and UNESCO, World Press Freedom Day 2012 was celebrated under the theme of 'Challenges to Media in a New Environment' at the Strand Hotel on Seikkantha Street here at 9.30 am today, with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win on behalf of Union Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye Myint, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, ambassadors, charges d'affaires and officials of foreign embassies in Yangon, resident representatives of UN agencies, departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Culture, local and foreign journalists and guests.

In his opening speech, Deputy Minister U Soe Win said: The Ministry of Information has been drafting a print media law a requisite for exercising press freedom as per the Constitution. We have already submitted the second draft, which is based on the recommendations we received from Union Attorney-General's Office, UNESCO experts, and inputs from Conference on Media Development in Myanmar held last March, to the Attorney-General's Office again on 23 April. When we receive recommendations of the Attorney-General's Office we will make necessary amendments to the draft and present it to the nearest Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session for approval through formal procedures. Likewise, we are in the process of drafting a broadcast media law in cooperation with international organizations.

Apart from guaranteeing freedom of expression, the government intends to help journalists to get easy access to information. In consequence, we have included stipulations helpful to the access to information in drafting the print media law. What's more, the draft also states provisions essential in setting up an independent Press Council that is supportive to professional, ethical, technical and socio-economic development of the journalists. The government on its part has been providing necessary assistance to

democratically reform the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association into independent Myanmar Journalists Association and Myanmar Writers Association enabling journalists and writers collectively serve their own interest.

As the online media has become main source of information like other traditional media, the Information Ministry has been in the process of recognizing it as traditional media to ensure rights for the online journalists. We have already made arrangements for the print media law to open ways for permitting the distribution of online information after setting up news agencies through formal registration and enable online journalists enjoy rights and protection and observe ethics on equal terms with other mainstream journalists. Because of these actions the future Myanmar media industry will become the true fourth estate striking a balance between freedom and accountability.

Apart from focusing on press freedom, we should not lose sight of the quality of the contents. Information overload has become today's problem. So, the important thing here is

We agree the importance of press freedom, but it alone is not adequate. So, we must set up a legal environment for correctly observing ethical values of the press and practicing press freedom itself. Currently, the government is fulfilling all the requirements. The Information Ministry is drafting media laws in accordance with internationally accepted principles as laid out in the Windhoek Declaration and UNESCO's Media Development Indicators so that they go well with the country's objective conditions.

In fact, it is a task whose magnitude goes beyond the capacity of the government. We need the participation of the local press as well as international technical and technological assistance. At this ceremony, I would invite local and foreign journalists and the international community to join hands with the government while acknowledging our media developments and reforms for achieving further progress of our media world in the future.

Next, Secretary-General Dr Lwin Lwin Soe of the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO read out the messages sent by United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and UNESCO Director-General Ms Irina Bokova.

Then, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye Myint gave a speech, saying that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was working to make sure all the citizens are able to enjoy the rights including the freedom of expression vested by the Constitution. In so doing, the committee, while assessing the existing laws so as to amend, add and cancel the facts that violate the provisions of the Constitution, was also coordinating with the Union government so as to enact new laws. With respect to press freedom, committee concerned had met journalists to listen to their opinions which were then submitted to the Information Ministry for its consideration in drawing media laws.

Media freedom includes freedom of speech and access to the news freely. So, Union Hluttaw made arrangements for media so as to get the news more freely since its 2nd meetings. Heads of Hluttaws has more engagements with media and the undertakings of Hluttaws are being explained. In addition, Hluttaw representatives Hluttaw Affairs Committee pay heed to the news on media as people's voices. The things that should be implemented are being implemented as quickly as possible. Plans are under way to have easy access to the discussions, resolutions and records of Hluttaws



Deputy Minister U Soe Win and attendees pose for a documentary photo at World Press Freedom Day Ceremony. MNA

KASON, Sacred month of Triple...

(from page 7)

Finally Lord Buddha delivered his last sermon, *Pacchima Buddha Vacana* before passing into Nibbana. The author humbly supplicates to The All Knowing One in rendering the last utterance in translated plain English thus

*"This is my last advice
Bhikkus and disciples;
All conditioned things
Are subject to decay.
Strive with mindfulness."*

It was indeed an event of unique significance that these most important episodes in the Chronicles of Lord Gautama Buddha took place most coincidentally on the full moon day of Kason. The first occasion was at the time of birth: in the year 68 of Maha Era (563 B.C.). The second occasion was at the time of attainment of Omniscient, Supreme Self-Enlightenment and attainment of Buddhahood in the year 103, Maha Era (528 B.C.). The third and final occasion was on passing away to Maha Parinibbana in the year 148 Maha Era (483 B.C.)

the quality improvement of information along with the development of Myanmar media industry. Especially, at the time when we are in the democratization and State building process, it is of vital importance for the press to be impartial and objective in featuring news concerning public policies comprehensive in presenting every issue from various perspectives, and avoiding omitting of facts. Besides, journalists should always harmoniously exercise freedom and accountability and freedom and rationality. They must have the right to present a diversity of views and stances as well as the unity based on national interest. The emergence of genuine democracy, the correct use of democracy according to its essence, national reconsolidation and restoration of ethnic unity, which in fact are crucial factors of Myanmar, are our common ground or in other words the national interest. Accordingly, the press should be the fourth estate standing by the national interest.

The annual observance of World Press Freedom Day on every 3rd May is to serve as a reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom and is also a day of reflection among media professionals about issues of press freedom and professional ethics. In our country, the President has already reiterated the essential role of the press as the fourth estate in democratic transition.

through websites and TV channels.

Press freedom could bring transparency and accountability to Myanmar society, thereby contributes to national unity and national reconsolidation.

Human Rights declaration and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) state that freedom of speech should not harm others' rights, not create religious and racial prejudices, have restrictions that should have in a democratic society not so as to harm the State's security. The said points have been prescribed in the Myanmar constitution.

Emergence of real fourth estate in the country is an important task in the process of democratization. Union Hluttaw had made its mind to implement people's wishes after taking notice of people's voices. He would like to make promise that Union Hluttaw would make continued efforts for coming out of a law that can exercise press freedom right.

Next, Patron U Soe Thein (Maung Wuntha), on behalf of the committee for establishment of Myanmar Journalists Association and Patron U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit), on behalf of the committee for establishment of Myanmar Writers Association spoke on the occasion.

Next, the deputy minister posed for documentary photo together with the attendees.

MNA

Fish released, respects paid in Kawthoung



KAWTHOUNG, 3 May—The fish releasing and respect paying ceremony was held in Kawthoung Township of Kawthoung District on 17 April, Myanmar New Year Day.

The fish releasing ceremony was held at Myoma

Jetty of Kawthoung.

At the respect paying ceremony at Sasana Beikman of Pyidawaye Pagoda, officials of the township donated cash and gifts to 76 older persons of above 81 years old.

Myanma Alin

Seller of illegal two-digit lottery arrested

KALAY, 3 May—The authorities of Kalay District Crime Reduction Squad, acting on tip-off, searched the bag with Lily label of Ma Nyo Mar on Sports Road in Aungzeya Ward of Kalay at 2.30 pm on 26 April.

They seized one exercise book with series of two digits and amounts of money on six pieces of paper, notes of currency in total amount of K 2500 and one ball-pen.

Action was taken against Ma Nyo Mar who sold illegal two-digit lottery under the Gambling Law.

Myanma Alin

Winners awarded in Double Strong Championship



NAY PYI TAW, 3 May—The prize presentation ceremony of Double Strong Championship 2012 (Yangon), organized by Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation under the arrangement of the Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Sports was held at the

training hall (Thuwunna) of the federation in Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region on 29 April. Deputy Director U Chakio of Sports and Physical Education Department presented the third prize to Defence (C) team, Patron of the Sepak Takraw event Daw Thet Thet

Swe the second prize to Defence (B) team and member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Secretary of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw L Khun Yi the first prize to Home Affairs team in the novice doubles event.

Officials gave second and third prizes to Shwethanlyin team and Shwekyuntha team in the open doubles event.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik presented the first prize to Home Affairs team.

MNA

Myitkyina Association holds AGM, pays respects to aged



YANGON, 3 May—Myitkyina Association (Yangon) held the 20th Annual General Meeting, prize presentation and first respect paying ceremony at Jade Dhammayon, here, on 29 April morning.

Patron of the association Manoktha U Kyaw Win

explained the purpose of holding the respect paying ceremony.

Next, those present paid respects to 50 older persons. On behalf of the older persons, U Tun Thein gave words of advice. They gave gifts to the older persons.

After that, Patron of the

association Myitkyina Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Zaw and wife Daw Mu Mu Win and family donated K 35 million to the fund of the welfare subcommittee to officials.

Patron of the association Daw Mu Mu Win, the chairman and officials presented cash awards to 11 students who passed the matriculation examination with flying colours in 2010-2011 academic year.

At the annual general meeting, U Saw Nwe Than Sein was elected as Chairman, Daw Tin Tin Nyunt as secretary and 30 executives for the association.

Myanma Alin

Interest shared to members of micro-credit society in Tamway

YANGON, 3 May—A ceremony to present 1.25 per cent interest over savings of members of private micro-credit society was held in Tamway Township of Yangon East District on 27 April.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Thein Win made a speech.

Executive of the Township Micro-Credit Society U Soe Naing explained progress of the



society. Secretary U Win Aung presented K 3819624

as interest to respective wards.—Kyemon

DISTRICT NEWS

Respects paid to aged in YeU Township

YE U, 3 May—The sixth Pariyatti Sangha Puja and the 20th respect paying ceremony was held in Pangon Village of YeU Township in Sagaing Region on 18 April.

The village administrator, members of the

organizing committee, local youths and villagers paid respects to members of the Sangha.

Later, they paid respects and gifts to older persons of above 75 years old.—Kyemon



Congregation receiving precepts from Sangha before respect paying ceremony in Pangon Village of YeU Township.

DRA to allow handing over of overage vehicles

YANGON, 3 May—Handing over of overage vehicles was re-allowed as of 23 April. Thus, the vehicles with number plate of Dha alphabet are being handed over at present, according to the Directorate of Road Administration.

"Handing over of overage vehicles were suspended before the end of March due to Thingyan

festival and ends of fiscal year. At present, the overage vehicles are allowed to hand over. Now, the handing over of vehicles with number plates of Dha alphabet is nearly to be finished. Soon, the vehicles with number plates of Na alphabet will be allowed to hand over. The Directorate of Road Administration will accept overage vehicles with number plate of Pa alphabet," an official of the directorate.

An official said that so far, over 18000 overage vehicles have been accepted at the Directorate of Road Administration in Yangon Region. It was estimated that there would be about 48,000 overage vehicles handed over across the nation.

Although rumour has been spread that the number

plate Ah alphabet of overage vehicles must be handed over, the directorate has decided to accept the vehicles with number plate of Pa alphabet only. It has not decided to accept more vehicles with number plate Ah alphabet, according to the Vehicle Import Supervisory Committee.

The price of overage vehicles reaches K 13 million to K 15 million. In the market, the brokers traded at K 16 million per slit of handing over the vehicles.

Khin Yadana

Information for trafficking in person

The government is carrying out prevention against trafficking in person with momentum.

In so doing, telephone numbers are

announced as connections with authorities concerned for enabling the people to actively participate in trafficking in persons. These telephone numbers are 067-

412555 and 067-412666 in Nay Pyi Taw, 09-49555666 in Muse, 09-49555777 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

UNIFORMS PROVIDED: A ceremony to provide uniforms to staff of General Administration Department was held in Dagon Myothit (East) Township of Yangon Region on 25 April. Township Administrator U Htay Kyaw presents uniforms fro 50 staff to through deputy head of department U Zaw Zaw Myint.—MYANMA ALIN



Charges of shops raised at Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image

MANDALAY, 3 May—Maha Muni Buddha Image Board of Trustees of Manadlay announced on 17 April that it will raise collection of charges for the shops around the stairways.

In the past, the charges of shops depending on locations increased to K 2000, K 2500, K 3000, K 3500 and K 5000 from K 500, K 600, K

700, K 900 and K 1300.

As the Maha Muni Buddha image is one of the images of the nation, maintenance and renovation are being carried out.

In so doing, as prices of materials raised year after year, the Board of Trustees decided to collect larger amount of charges three times for the shops.

In the new rates of charges, the shops are to pay K 3200, K 6000, K 7500, K 9000, K 10500 and K 15000 monthly.

Moreover, charges of car parking and bicycle stands will be collected K 500 per large vehicle, K 400 per small car, K 300 per motorcycle and K 100 per bicycle.

Kyemon

Coord meeting on achieving success in weightlifting sport



President of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation U Thet Lin watches monthly sports trials of weightlifting event.—MWF

YANGON, 3 May—The monthly sports trials of weightlifting sport was held in conjunction with the coordination meeting of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation at its hall in Aung San Stadium, here, on 28 April morning for achieving success in XXVII SEA Games.

At first, the sports trials of weightlifting commenced. Altogether 14 men and 11 women weightlifters

participated in the sports trials.

Next, President of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation U Thet Lin made a speech at the coordination meeting.

Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Aung Soe (Weightlifter Scouting, Training and Securing Subcommittee) reported on preparations for achieving success in the SEA Games.

President U Thet Lin, executives and coaches gave suggestions to award the enthusiastic lifters who could score best records.

Later, the documentary video on opening ceremony of the Asian Weightlifting Championship held in Pyeongtaek of the Republic of Korea and holding of events were presented to the attendees with the use of projector.—Kyemon

DISTRICT NEWS

Tatkon Township FSD opens basic fire fighting course



NAY PYI TAW, 3 May—The basic fire fighting course No 2/2012 was opened at the

hall of Tatkon Township Fire Services Department of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 27

April.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Aye Lu of Tatkon Township General Administration Department made a speech.

It was attended by departmental officials, ward and village-tract administrators, members of Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, totalling 100.

Altogether 50 trainees are attending the two-week course.

Township FSD

First IRS Pencak Silat Championship 5-10 May

YANGON, 3 May—The Myanmar Martial Arts Federation will organize the First Inter-Region/State Pencak Silat Inter-Club Championship 2012 at Theinbyu Gymnasium, here,

from 5 to 10 May.

Those wishing to take part in the championship are to enlist at the Myanmar Martial Arts Federation (North/Dagon), Tel: 01-584353, 580712 and 09-

43098129, not later than 1 May.

It was reported that deserved prizes will be awarded to the winners in the championship.

MMAF

RED CROSS BUILDING OPENED: A ceremony to open office of Pyapon Township Red Cross Society was held on 10 April. President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Tha Hla Shwe, Township Administrator U Hla Htay and Head of District Health Department Dr Myo Khin formally open the building.—MYANMA ALIN



Trainees for referee course recruited in billiards, snooker sports

YANGON, 3 May—As more referees need in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation of the Sports and Physical Education Department

under the Ministry of Sports, the referee course will be conducted at the federation from 14 to 20 May.

Those wishing to attend the course may enlist at the federation, not later than 13

May.

Those who passed the referee course may attend the referee refresher course to be conducted in Nay Pyi Taw from 11 to 16 June.

MBSF

Respects paid to older persons in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 3 May—The 12th ceremony to pay respects to older persons of above 75 years was organized by Magway and Bahtoo Park families in Ward 6/12 in Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region on 17 April.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Aung Moe Oo, Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Soe Moe and party, Ward



Administrator U Kan Myint, Chairman of Dhammayon Board of Trustees U Tint Lwin and wellwishers donated K

12,000 and gifts worth K 4300 each to 35 older persons.

Myanma Alin

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED: A ceremony to present certificates was held at Kengtong Pre-Primary School of Social Welfare Department in Shan State (East) for 2011-2012 academic year at the hall of Kengtong Township Development Affairs Committee on 8 April. Principal Daw Lwin Lwin Nwe presents certificates to students.—SWD



Model plot of Paletwe paddy harvested in Pyapon



PYAPON, 3 May—A summer Paletwe paddy on two-acre model plot was harvested in Kyonta Shankwin Village in Pyapon Township of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region on 20 April.

It was attended by the deputy commissioner of Pyapon District, the township administrator, members of the district and township agricultural committees, staff of Township Agriculture

Department and Settlement and Land Records Department, village administrators and farmers.

After the harvesting works 175 baskets of paddy per acre was produced in dry status. Agriculture

Australian billionaire to build Titanic II



One of Australia's richest men, Clive Palmer has unveiled plans for a 21st century version of the Titanic to be built in China, with its first voyage from England to New York set for 2016.

INTERNET

NEW YORK, 3 May—One century version of the of Australia's richest men, Clive Palmer, on Monday unveiled plans to build a 21st

2016.

Palmer, a self-made mining billionaire, said he had commissioned state-owned Chinese company CSC Jinling Shipyard to construct Titanic II with the same dimensions as its predecessor.

"It will be every bit as luxurious as the original Titanic but of course it will have state-of-the-art 21st century technology and the latest navigation and safety systems," Palmer said in a statement.

"Titanic II will sail in the northern hemisphere and her maiden voyage from England to North America is scheduled for late 2016."

He added that he had

invited the Chinese navy to escort the Titanic II to New York.

The announcement comes just weeks after the 100th anniversary of the sinking of Titanic, which went down on 15 April, 1912 after striking an iceberg on its first voyage, from Southampton to New York. Palmer said the new ship would be a tribute to the spirit of the men and women who worked on the original, which sank with the loss of 1,514 passengers and crew.

"These people produced work that is still marvelled at more than 100 years later and we want that spirit to go on for another 100 years," he said.

Internet

China gives green light to Costa Rican meat exports

SAN JOSE, 3 May—China has given the green light to imports of Costa Rican meat, Agriculture Minister Gloria Abraham said on Sunday. Speaking at an agribusiness expo in northern Costa Rica, Abraham said three meat processing plants that met the requirements of China and secured certification now have gained entry into the Chinese market.

The minister said she was pleased by the "positive effect" that the entry into the Chinese market would have on the country's meat producing sector, which is just beginning to emerge from a crisis caused by several years of depressed prices. "Cattle ranching has before it a new horizon full of opportunities," she said. She urged both private and public sector players in the meat industry to seize the new opportunities, and "reflect on the causes of the crisis and jointly decide the steps that a country we must take."

Costa Rica and China signed a free trade agreement in 2010, paving the way for removing most tariffs on exports of Costa Rican coffee, meat, juice and other products to the huge market. China is the central American country's second biggest commercial partner, while Costa Rica is the Asian nation's ninth largest trading partner in Latin America.—Xinhua

More families building their own tornado shelters

MONTGOMERY, 3 May — When deadly twisters chewed through the South and Midwest in 2011, thousands of people in the killers' paths had nowhere to hide. Now many of those families are taking an unusual extra step to be ready next time: adding tornado shelters to their homes.

A year after the storms, sales of small residential shelters known as safe rooms are surging across much of the nation, especially in hard-hit communities such as Montgomery and Tuscaloosa in Alabama and in Joplin, Mo, where twisters laid waste to entire neighbourhoods.

Manufacturers can barely keep up with demand, and some states are offering grants and other financial incentives to help pay for the added protection and peace of mind. Tom Cook didn't need convincing. When a 2008 tornado barreled toward his home in rural southwest Missouri, Cook, his wife and their teenage daughter sought refuge in a bathroom. It wasn't enough. His wife was killed. Cook moved to nearby Joplin to rebuild, never imagining he would confront another monster twister. But he had a safe room

installed in the garage just in case. On 22 May, Cook and his daughter huddled inside the small steel enclosure while an EF-5 tornado roared outside. They emerged unharmed, although the new house was gone.

"It was blown away completely — again," he said. "The only thing standing was that storm room." Generations ago, homes across America's Tornado Alley often came equipped with storm cellars, usually a small concrete bunker buried in the backyard. Although some of those remain, they are largely relics of a bygone era. And basements are less common than they used to be, leaving many people with no refuge

except maybe a bathtub or a room deep inside the house. The renewed interest in shelters was stirred by last year's staggering death toll — 358 killed in the South and 161 dead in Joplin. So far this year, more than 60 people have perished in US twisters.

Safe rooms feature thick steel walls and doors that can withstand winds up to 250 mph. They are typically windowless, with no light fixtures and no electricity — just a small, reinforced place to ride out the storm. Costs generally range from \$3,500 to \$6,000. Sizes vary, but most hold only a few people. They can be bolted to the floor of a garage or custom-fitted to squeeze into a small space, even a closet.—Internet



In this 23 April, 2012, photo Freddie Wooten stands in front of the storm shelter he built at his own expense in Henagar, Ala, following the 2011 tornado.—INTERNET



This file photo shows a passenger outside a Sydney airport terminal, in 2011. Australian police were on Tuesday hunting a man who stabbed a chauffeur in front of shocked passengers at Sydney airport in a carjacking gone wrong. INTERNET

Man stabbed at Sydney airport

SYDNEY, 3 May — Australian police on Tuesday arrested a man over the alleged stabbing of a chauffeur in front of shocked passengers at Sydney airport in a carjacking gone wrong. Detectives said it appeared the culprit, in his 20s, stole a rental car but was forced to abandon it after he crashed into a mini-bus outside the arrivals area at the domestic terminal on Monday evening. Barefoot, he ran from the wreckage to where the chauffeur was sitting in his own vehicle and tried to steal

it, police claim.

"The chauffeur managed to kick the man away, however he was stabbed in the leg in the process," police said in a statement. The man then sprinted towards a woman waiting nearby to load baggage into her car boot. She initially refused to hand over her keys but gave in when he threatened to stab her too and he fled in her silver Mercedes. Police said a man was arrested after a chase north of Sydney in which the Mercedes lost control and hit another car.

Inspector David Cattell told ABC radio the chauffeur, 38, was lucky to escape the drama without major injury. "He's very lucky that it wasn't more serious," he said. "The female was obviously shocked and distressed by the incident but was safe and unharmed." In March 2009, a 29-year-old man died after being bludgeoned with a bollard and stabbed in the chest and abdomen during a brawl in a departures area at Sydney Airport between rival motorcycle gangs.

Internet

Montenegro becomes WTO member

BELGRADE, 3 May— Montenegro had become a full member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), authorities of the Balkan country said on Sunday. Montenegro became the 154th WTO member after an entry protocol kicked in on Sunday, said a Press release by the finance ministry.

The country has regarded the accession as one of its foreign policy priorities, which it says would send a positive signal to potential investors. As a WTO member, Montenegro must comply with free trade rules and seek negotiated solutions of international trade disputes. Montenegro applied for the WTO in 2004, and signed the entry protocol in December 2011.—Xinhua

S Korea's industrial output growth plunges in March

SEOUL, 3 May— South Korea's industrial output growth plunged last month due to weak demand at home and abroad caused by high oil prices and economic slowdown in China, a government report showed on Monday. Output in the mining, manufacturing and electricity and gas sectors expanded 0.3 percent in March from a year earlier, sharply down from a 14.3 percent on-year growth tallied in February, according to Statistics Korea. From a month before, the production contracted 3.1 percent, down from a 0.6 percent on-month expansion for February.

The statistical agency attributed the sharp contraction to weak demand for auto & video equipment and machinery that shrank 14.9 percent and 4 percent on-year in March respectively. Production in parts and automobiles grew 7.2 percent and 8.3 percent each over the same period, limiting the production's further decline. Meanwhile, market watchers said the contraction mainly arose from weak demand at home and abroad. "The March production grew merely 0.3 percent in March due to temporary slowdown in demand at home and abroad. The slowdown was attributed to high oil prices

and weakening economic momentum in China," said An Ki-tae, an economist at Woori Investment & Securities in Seoul.

Production in the manufacturing sector, which makes up the bulk of all industrial output, grew 0.3 percent on-year in March, down from a 15 percent on-year expansion for February, according to the statistical agency. Shipment in the manufacturers declined 0.1 percent on-year in March due to a contraction in audio & video equipment and electrical equipment, while inventory surged 15.5 percent amid a growth in chips and parts. Local manufacturers operated at an average capacity of 78.2 percent last month, down 2.9 percentage points from the previous month. The factory utilization stood at 81.3 percent a year earlier. Production in the service industry grew 1.4 percent on-year in March as upswings in health, social welfare, finance and insurance offset downswings in transportation, real estate and rental service sectors, according to the report.

Retail sales were unchanged in March from a year earlier due to outperformance in non-durables and semi-durables that was offset by underperformance in durables such as automobiles.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SN HARMONY VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SN HARMONY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S SEANET SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (443)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (443) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Panama, US ink accord on environmental cooperation

PANAMA CITY, 3 May — Panama and the United States signed an accord on environmental cooperation Wednesday as part of a push to promote bilateral trade, Panamanian Ministry of Trade and Industry said in a statement. Under the accord, the two countries will develop a work programme through an environmental cooperation commission to reflect their respective priorities, the statement said.

With this agreement, the two sides reiterate their political will to strengthen

cooperation in environmental protection and conservation of natural resources in effective interaction, said General Manager of Panama's Environmental Protection Agency Lucia Chandeck, who signed the accord on behalf of Panama. The two sides also agreed to promote public participation in joint environmental activities. Ricardo Quijano, Panamanian trade and industry minister, said the accord was important as the two nations are looking forward to completing the preparation of a Trade

Promotion Agreement.

"The opening of trade through the Trade Promotion Agreement must be balanced with environmental conservation, and each country must commit to promoting trade and investment without failing to apply and abide by its domestic environmental legislation," Quijano said. The Trade Promotion Agreement was respectively ratified by Panama's National Assembly of Deputies on 13 Dec, 2007 and the US Congress on 12 Oct, 2011. — Xinhua



The shopping centre is formed by 35 colorful containers by government for the rebuilding operation after the earthquake on 22 Feb, 2011. — Xinhua

Austria, Switzerland, Germany to expand hydro energy production

VIENNA, 3 May — Austria, Switzerland and Germany signed a trilateral declaration on Wednesday to step up cooperation on the use of hydro-electric power. The declaration was announced by Austrian Federal Minister of Economy, Family and Youth Reinhold Mitterlehner, his German counterpart Philipp Rosler and

Swiss counterpart Doris Leuthard at a Press conference.

"Hydro-electric power plants as a flexible energy source play a key role in our energy system," said Mitterlehner, who called for the creation of a base to coordinate pumping capacities to increase the amount of green electricity used. "This allows us to strengthen Austria's position as an energy hub and 'Green

Battery' in the heart of Europe," he said.

Rosler said there was a need to expand hydro-power "for the conversion of the energy supply to renewable sources."

The joint declaration released by the three countries outlines the "concrete steps for the transnational use of existing storage capacity and for its expansion."

Xinhua

YATANARPONTELEPORT CO., LTD OPEN TENDER INVITATION

1. Yatanarpon Teleport Company Limited has scheduled to make underground fiber cable installations along the following highways on which cost for implementation shall be settle in Myanmar Kyat Currency.

(a) Mandalay - Lashio - Muse (96 Core)

(b) Shwebo - Myitkyina (96 Core)

2. Interested Myanmar National award Private Companies having experience in underground fiber cable installation work may submit tender to Yatanarpon Teleport Co., Ltd not later than 26.5.2012, Saturday 12:00 hrs.

3. May appear and enquire and purchase Tender Forms and detail information at the following address.

Yatanarpon Teleport Co., Ltd
Universities Campus, Hlaing Township.
Phone No. 01652233

'Lawn bowler' look for Aussie Olympic uniforms



Australian Olympic team members (L-R), Murray Stewart, Sarah Tait, Lauren Jackson, Libby Trickett, Naomi Flood, Kynan Maley and Adam Gibson model the official Australian Olympic Opening Ceremony uniform in Sydney on 3 May. — INTERNET

SYDNEY, 3 May — Australia's uniform for the Olympic opening ceremony was unveiled on Thursday, but got mixed reviews with criticism that the athletes looked like lawn bowlers. The uniforms feature green jackets with white slacks for men and white knee-length skirts for women and white Dunlop volley shoes.

"They hit the stage like... escapees from your local bowling club," the Sydney Daily Telegraph said in describing the uniform. Athletes were involved in the

design process and the Sydney Morning Herald website referred to those modelling the outfit as "our white-shoe brigade". But the athletes liked what they saw.

"The style and cut are a real highlight for me, I think it will be really flattering," said swimmer Libby Trickett, who was the athletes' representative on the design committee. Basketball star Lauren Jackson said she was proud to be wearing the uniform. "It's very Australian, classic but modern, and importantly it's comfortable." — Internet

Air China opens flight to Mumbai

CHENGDU, 3 May — Air China on Wednesday launched a new regular flight between the southwestern city of Chengdu and the Indian City of Mumbai, marking the first direct air route between the Chinese mainland and the Indian economic centre. The flight will take off every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday using an Airbus A319 aircraft, a spokesman from Air China's southwest branch said.

The flight takes about five hours, the spokesman said. It is the second direct air route Air China has launched between Chengdu and India. The carrier opened a Chengdu-Bangalore flight in February 2010, he said. Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan Province. It is a political, economic and cultural center in western China. — Xinhua

Nigerian air force jet crashes

ABUJA, 3 May — A Nigerian Air Force F7-Ni single seat fighter jet, on a routine training exercise, crashed on Wednesday close to the Kaduna International Airport. Spokesperson for the force Air Commodore Yusuf Anas disclosed this in a statement reaching Xinhua, saying that the pilot on board the aircraft ejected safely.

The statement said a Search and Rescue Team from the Nigerian Air Force 301 Flying Training School, Kaduna, immediately rescued the pilot who is in a stable condition. The statement said the pilot was receiving treatment at the Nigerian Air Force Aero Medical Hospital, Kaduna. No fatality was reported on the ground. — Xinhua



The Miss China Tourism International Contest 2012 kicked off in Guangyuan, a city of southwest China's Sichuan Province on 1 May. Contestants from 60 countries and regions all over the world gathered in Guangyuan, the hometown of Wu Zetian, the only woman in the history of China to assume the title of Empress in Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907), to compete for the final title and the chance of being image ambassador for the city. — XINHUA

Man sold fruit-flavored moonshine

A Florida moonshiner has been arrested for luring customers with fruit-flavored booze, investigators say. Bob Tibbs, 69, was arrested Friday after a two-month undercover investigation, the Orlando Sentinel reported. He was released after posting \$5,500 bail.

"Thanks to a tip, this illegal operation was shut down," Flagler County Sheriff Donald W. Fleming said in a statement. "A lot of people may be surprised that moonshine operations still exists. It does and it is illegal."

Deputies said they purchased moonshine flavored with apple, blackberry and strawberry as well as the unflavored stuff. Tibbs, who allegedly sold the booze out of his truck on the side of US 1, provided a choice of 130- and 150-proof, they said. Tibbs also sold fresh fish. Deputies found a still on his property and broke it up, Fleming said.



Calligraphy artist Ji Xiumei, 55, paints with her hair in Cangzhou, North China's Hebei Province, on 21 March, 2012. Ji began to practice calligraphy eight years ago and her hair is 1.68 metres long.

African antelope escapes Ohio Safari

Ohio authorities used a tranquilizer gun to subdue an African eland antelope that escaped a safari resort, police said. The 1,000-pound animal broke free from Kalahari Resorts' Safari Adventures Animal Park in Huron Township, causing a scare for some local residents, *The Lorain Morning Journal* reported. A resident near the

resort called police after noticing the animal — which is more than 5-1/2 feet tall at the shoulder — standing behind his home. Sgt. Dan Kautz said the Erie County Sheriff's Office routinely deals with livestock, "but not animals you'd find on an African plain."

An animal handler shot the antelope with a tranquilizer dart, causing it to flee toward US 250 before passing out, the newspaper reported.

News Album

Bear tranquilized on Colorado campus

In a brush with the wild, police in Boulder, Colo., tranquilized a black bear that was roaming around the University of Colorado's campus.

For about 2 1/2 hours, the bear nosed around the campus in search of food.

Rhonda Chestnutt, a CU employee, told the *Boulder Daily Camera* the bear

brushed past her outside the Williams Village dorm complex.

"It was like 'Excuse me, pardon me, coming through.' It was running full speed," she said. "I felt privileged to have the encounter." Police brought the romp to an end about 10 am, when they shot the bear out of a tree with two tranquilizer darts. The bear

landed on its back on padding placed below the tree.

Jennifer Churchill, spokeswoman for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, said bears emerge from hibernation in March and April to scavenge for food.

"We took him in a truck and are driving him out to a bear habitat and hope he'll stay out that way," she said.

Dolphin refuses to leave Calif wetland

A dolphin lingering in a dead-end wetland near Huntington Beach, Calif., refuses to head back into open water, an animal expert said. The dolphins' behaviour has befuddled Peter Wallerstein, programme director for Southern California's Marine Animal Rescue. "He's not trapped in this area," Wallerstein told CNN.

The dolphin, dubbed Fred by some spectators, appeared healthy and in no danger, though he showed "some signs of being disoriented," he said. "He's eating fish, sardines," Wallerstein said. "That's a good

sign." The 6-foot common dolphin was first spotted in the Bolsa Chica wetlands. Would-be rescuers on paddle boards nearly coaxed him back into the harbour only to have him reverse course when two other dolphins showed up, Wallerstein said. "As soon as he saw them, he changed his behavior immediately and swam back under the bridge," Wallerstein said.

"I've never seen that type of interaction. 'He chose to be in here for some reason.' He said another attempt to encourage the dolphin back to sea would be made on Monday.

Pasdar joins 'Political Animals' cast



Adrian Pasdar

LOS ANGELES, 3 May—USA Network says former "Heroes" cast member Adrian Pasdar has landed a role in "Political Animals," its Washington-set drama

scheduled to premiere this summer.

Starring Sigourney Weaver, Ciaran Hinds, Carla Gugino and Ellen Burstyn, the six-episode series is to debut 15 July.

The *Hollywood Reporter* said Pasdar will play Paul Garcetti, who defeated Weaver's former first lady character, Elaine, in the presidential primary and appointed her secretary of state.

Pasdar also stars on the TV show "The Lying Game." Topics: Adrian Pasdar, Sigourney Weaver, Ciaran Hinds, Carla Gugino, Ellen Burstyn.

Internet

Obama, Witherspoon earn top mom honours



First Lady Michelle Obama and actress Reese Witherspoon top a list of famous mothers.
INTERNET

DALLAS, 3 May—US first lady Michelle Obama and actress Reese Witherspoon have been named International Mothers of the Year for 2012, organizers said on Wednesday. Also enshrined in the Hall of Fame this year are Victoria Beckham, a singer and fashion designer; Lisa Belkin, a Huffington

Post journalist; Stephanie Decker, an Indiana housewife and tornado survivor; Betty DeGeneres, author, activist and mother of talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres; Meredith Olafson, a North Dakota nurse and surrogate mother; Holly Robinson Peete, an actress and television host; Ann Romney, philanthropist and wife of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney; and Summer Sanders, an Olympic medalist.

The International Mothers Hall of Fame is a 45-year-old Texas non-profit that describes itself as being dedicated to "increasing respect and recognition for the first — and often the most powerful — influence of our lives."

Internet

Witness says Jason Hudson sold drugs



Jason Hudson, 29, is pictured in this photo left at a makeshift memorial in front of the childhood home of Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson on 27 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET

CHICAGO, 3 May—A handyman testified at William Balfour's triple homicide trial in Chicago that Jennifer Hudson's slain brother, Jason, made a living selling cocaine.

Balfour is the ex-husband of Jennifer's sister, Julia. He is charged with the shooting deaths of the sisters' mother and brother, as well as Julia's 7-year-old son.

The *Chicago Tribune* said witness Reginald Jones told the court Tuesday he frequently bought cocaine from the singer's brother and occasionally helped Jason handle customers who came to the Hudson family home to buy drugs.

Jones also said he caught Balfour spying on Julia, who was living with her mother, brother and son, just months before her three family members were killed.

Internet



Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga and Taylor Kinney break up

NEW YORK, 3 May—Lady Gaga has ended her 10-month romance with actor Taylor Kinney, a source close to the American pop star told *UsMagazine.com* Wednesday. The insider said Lady Gaga, 26, and Kinney, 30, are "on a break."

"She will be touring non-stop until next year and has found she can't have relationship at the same time," the source told the magazine. "There's just no room for anything else. Her work is all-consuming."

Kinney is best known for his work on TV's "The Vampire Diaries."—Internet

Lynyrd Skynyrd to release new album

NEW YORK, 3 May—American rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd is to release its first new studio album in three years this summer, Loud & Proud/Roadrunner Records announced on Wednesday. "Last of a Dying Breed" reunites the band with producer Bob Marlette who produced "God & Guns," which was released in September 2009. The new album is set for release on 21 Aug. "It was great to get back in the studio with Bob for this new album," the group's guitarist and only original member, Gary Rossington, said in a statement. "We kind of went back old school this time. All of us playing together in the studio as a band, tracking



Rickey Medlocke of Lynyrd Skynyrd performs in concert prior to the start of the 52 Annual AutoCare 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Georgia on 4 Sept, 2011.
INTERNET

songs and creating licks. We had a lot of fun and the music really flowed for us, so that's when you know you are on to something good. We can't wait to let the fans hear these songs and play 'em live."

Internet

Ashton Kutcher ad is called racist, yanked offline

LOS ANGELES, 3 May—An online ad featuring Ashton Kutcher as an Indian man has been pulled offline after viewers called it racist.

The images and video for Popchips feature the 34-year-old "Two and a Half Men" star in brown makeup portraying a Bollywood producer named Raj who is "looking for love." They were removed from YouTube and

Facebook after being criticized online.

Other videos featuring Kutcher as a stoner, tattooed Southerner and pasty fashionista remain online.

A spokeswoman for Popchips says the dating parody featuring the four characters was "created to provoke a few laughs and was never intended to stereotype or offend anyone."



Actor Ashton Kutcher

She added that the company hopes "people can enjoy this in the spirit it was intended." A spokeswoman for Kutcher hasn't return messages seeking comment.—Internet

Campbell retires from football

Defender reveals he is quitting after more than 500 Premier League appearances

LONDON, 3 May — Premier League legend Sol Campbell has announced his retirement from professional football. The 37-year-old defender enjoyed a distinguished career and is one of only six players to have appeared more than 500 times in the Premier League, playing 503 times in total. Campbell began his career at Tottenham Hotspur in the 1992/93 season and quickly established himself as a mainstay of the Spurs defence. England recognition soon followed, with Campbell winning the first of his 73 international caps in 1996. He captained Spurs to League Cup success in 1999.

The towering centre-

back moved across north London in July 2001 to join Arsenal and enjoyed great success at the Gunners. He won the Premier League and FA Cup double in the 2001/02 season and played 35 times during the season of the 'Invincibles' in 2003/04, in which Arsenal did not lose a single League match. That Arsenal team eventually put together a record run of 49 Premier League matches unbeaten. Campbell headed the Gunners in front in the 2006 Champions League final against Barcelona, although Arsenal subsequently lost.

He moved to Portsmouth in August 2006, spending three seasons at Fratton Park — including skipping

Pompey in their 2008 FA Cup final triumph against Cardiff City. He then signed a surprise deal with League Two Notts County - but returned to the Premier League with Arsenal in the 2009/10 season, playing 11 times in the top flight after initially returning to the club to train. Campbell then joined for Newcastle during the following campaign before being released by the Magpies after one season on Tyneside.

Speaking at the recent Football Extravaganza, where members of the Premier League's 500 Club were recognised, Campbell said: "I'm very proud and very lucky at the same time." "To get to 500 games in any sport is an achievement, but especially in football. I'm just glad that people like me are getting recognised and I'm just happy to be here. "I've loved every minute of it, every second, so it's been unbelievable for me. "When you start out you don't really think about how many games you're going to play, how many goals you're going to score, you just want to play football. "Notching up 500-odd games is fantastic, in one division, in one league, it's brilliant." — *Internet*



Sol Campbell made 503 appearances during his Premier League career. — *Internet*

Mayweather shuns trash talking for Cotto bout

LAS VEGAS, 3 May — Floyd Mayweather Jr is renowned almost as much for taunting his opponents outside the ring as for dominating them inside the ropes but he has struck a complimentary tone ahead of Saturday's fight with Miguel

Antonio Margarito in December, was also full of praise. "He's been a gentleman the whole way with me," the Puerto Rican said of his opponent. "I've been a gentleman with him. That's the way it should be. You get paid to fight in the ring, not outside the ring."

The mutual respect reflects the two fighters' credentials. Mayweather, who won his first title at super featherweight in 1998, is regarded as the world's best pound-for-pound fighter, with the possible exception of Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao. Cotto, whose first championship came at super lightweight in 2004, has suffered only two defeats in 39 contests while winning titles in three weight divisions.

Reuters



WBA super welterweight champion Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico. — *Internet*

Undefeated boxer Floyd Mayweather J of the US.

INTERNET

Cotto. Undefeated American Mayweather will challenge Puerto Rican Cotto for the World Boxing Association (WBA) super welterweight title at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. "Miguel is a true warrior, a tough champion, and to go down in the Hall of Fame as one of the best, you have to face the true champions out there," Mayweather, 42-0 (26 knockouts), told reporters on Wednesday.

Cotto, 37-2 (30 KOs), who successfully defended his crown with a 10th-round technical knockout win over

Real Madrid end Barca title run in style



Real Madrid's coach Jose Mourinho is thrown into the air by his players after their win over Athletic Bilbao to win the Spanish first division league title at San Mames stadium in Bilbao on 2 May, 2012. — *Internet*

BILBAO, 3 May — Real Madrid claimed their first Spanish title in four years, ending the reign of bitter rivals Barcelona to boot, as they beat Athletic Bilbao 3-0 on Wednesday for what is their 32nd league crown. Gonzalo Higuain, Mesut Ozil and Cristiano Ronaldo scored the goals to give Jose Mourinho a record-breaking four titles in four different countries and the victory required with two games remaining. Mourinho's first Spanish league title ended Barca's run of three successive league titles in his second season at the club.

Madrid needed to win after Barcelona had earlier beaten Malaga 4-1 with goals from Carles Puyol and a hat-

trick from Lionel Messi that saw him break Gerd Muller's record for goals in a single European season. Afterwards the players jubilantly celebrated on the San Mames pitch as the first visiting team to ever win a title in Athletic's stadium. "It's been a long hard season but

we've finally done it and I just hope it's the first of many with this young squad, we dedicate it to the fans," said captain Iker Casillas on the final whistle.

"We're very happy," said Sergio Ramos, who last Wednesday had experienced vastly different emotions when he missed a penalty in the Champions League semi-final shootout defeat by Bayern Munich. "It's been a tough league and Barca were an extraordinary rival, we'll enjoy it now and celebrate it with our fans." Higuain was quick to dismiss any talk for now about his future, after being linked to Paris Saint-Germain in the last week. "It's been a fight week-in, week-out to win this league. I was happy to start tonight and, after we've gone three years without winning it, I think we deserved it this season," said the Argentinian. — *Internet*



Real Madrid players celebrate after their win over Athletic Bilbao to win the Spanish first division league title at San Mames stadium in Bilbao. — *Internet*

International Sports



Lecce's midfielder Andrea Bertolacci celebrates after scoring during the Serie A football match between Juventus and Lecce at the Juventus Stadium in Turin. — *Internet*

Juve stumble against 10-man Lecce as Milan close

TURIN, 3 May — Ten-man Lecce threw a spanner in the Serie A title works as they held Juventus to a 1-1 draw on Wednesday, allowing AC Milan to close the gap at the top to just one point. Juve seemed to be cruising to victory after an early goal while their relegation-threatened opponents were reduced to 10 men early in the second period. But Andrea Bertolacci's goal five minutes from time snatched a draw and allowed Milan, 2-0 winners over Atalanta, to reduce their arrears.

And it was a horror mistake from Juve goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon that gifted Lecce the equaliser, suggesting the Turin giants might just be cracking under the title pressure. It ended Juve's eight-match winning run and gives Milan renewed hope of retaining their crown. But Juve coach Antonio

Conte refused to blame his decorated keeper for the dropped points. "There was a moment of slackness, we missed a bonus and now we have to win the last two games," he said. "But if you'd have offered me this at the beginning of the year, I'd have signed on a thousand times. "That's football, it was incredible what happened. A mistake can happen, Gigi's having an amazing year." Juve were off to a dream start and it came from their fabled midfield.

Internet

Gasquet, Wawrinka move into Estoril quarterfinals

OEIRAS, 3 May — Richard Gasquet powered past Paolo Lorenzi of Italy 6-1, 6-1 at the Estoril Open on Wednesday to reach his fifth quarterfinal of the season. The second-seeded Frenchman broke twice in the opening set and three times in the second to close out a commanding performance on clay in 66 minutes. Gasquet, who lost to Novak Djokovic in the 2007 Estoril final, hit 24 winners.

Third-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka recovered from a shaky start to beat Spanish qualifier Ivan Navarro 7-6(5), 6-1. The big-serving Swiss saved break points in his first two service games before being broken in the sixth game on a double-fault. He broke back immediately and had five

set points at one stage in the tiebreaker. Wawrinka overpowered his opponent in the 20-minute second set, serving out the match in damp and windy conditions at the rain-disrupted event.

Internet



France's Richard Gasquet returns a ball to Italy's Paolo Lorenzi during their Estoril Open tennis match on 2 May, 2012, in Oeiras, outside Lisbon. — *Internet*

Chile's Universidad named world's third best club

SANTIAGO, 3 May — Chilean soccer club Universidad de Chile, well known as "La U", are the third best club in the world behind Spain's Barcelona and Real Madrid, according to the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) on Wednesday. The Chilean club, coached by Argentine Jorge Sampaoli, climbed one position to the No 3 spot in the list of the Top 400.

La U, champions of the 2011 Opening and Closing tournament and of the 2011 Copa Bridgestone Sudamericana, began the current season with the same intensity and effective play they showed last year. La U now lead Chile's domestic tournament and are a favorite to win the 2012 Copa Libertadores. — *Xinhua*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-5-12 09:30 am ~ 5-5-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Glorious Mrauk U & Its Pagoda Festival
- * News
- * Songs for you
- * News
- * Their Experiences & Impressions
- * News
- * Fortune of Human Correlated with Astro Science (5/2012)
- * News
- * Indian Education Expo' 2012
- * News
- * National Kandawgyi Garden (Pyin Oo Lwin)
- * News
- * "Fruits of Success" River Ayeyawady... Demarcated Cannot be {Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Thein Ga)}
- * News
- * Relax...at pet fish farm
- * Myanmar Movie
- * "Selfless Sacrifices"

MYANMAR TV

(4-5-2012) (Friday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:50 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:20 am
- 3. Teleplay (Health)
- 8:35 am
- 4. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 5. Martial Song
- 4:20 pm
- 6. Dance of National Races
- 4:55 pm
- 7. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:05 pm
- 8. Song of Yester Years
- 5:15 pm
- 9. Sports Highlight
- 6:20 pm
- 10. Internet Garden
- 7:00 pm
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 12. News
- 13. Just For Laughs
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. Song Lover

Kim Hyun-joong to kick off pop tour in Singapore



In this Sunday, 14 Aug, 2011 file photo, South Korean singer Kim Hyun-joong smiles during his four-day tour in Taipei, Taiwan.—INTERNET

SINGAPORE, 3 May—Korean entertainer Kim Hyun-joong plans to kick off his "2012 Asia Fan Meeting Tour" by high-fiving all 3,000 people expected to turn up—a first for a pop star visiting Singapore.

Event organizer "Running Into The Sun" said the original plan was for Kim to

high-five 500 fans selected from the audience but Kim was insisting on high-fiving everyone.

"I know it's not going to be easy and I hope that even if it is a really short moment of high-five, the fans would know how much I appreciate their effort and support," he said.

He will meet his fans at the stadium exit after the event ends.

Kim told *The Associated Press* on Thursday he's confident security won't be an issue.

The tour that starts Friday includes Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Thailand. Organizers say Kim will high-five everyone at fan events in Hong Kong and Taiwan, too.

Kim is part of the boy band SS501 and became hugely popular across Asia after appearing in the 2009 Korean TV drama "Boys Over Flowers."

His solo debut album, "Break Down," was released in 2011.—INTERNET

Mobile specialist team gives health care service, health talks

YANGON, 3 May—Under the leadership of Yangon Region Health Committee, the mobile health care services for the people and talking about health knowledge was held at the Township People's Hospital in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 28 April.

A 53-member specialist team led by Medical Superintendent Dr Tin Win Kyaw of North Okkalapa General and Teaching Hospital provided health care services free of charge to the local people of Dagon Myothit (North) Township and gave talks about declining of motility rate.

The specialist team broaden horizon of over 200 people with health knowledge and gave medical treatment to 397 patients.

Chelsea 0-2 Newcastle: Cisse's magic show... striker hits double to floor Blues



Cisse fires Newcastle into the lead midway through the first half.—INTERNET

LONDON, 3 May—Papiss Cisse had already made a massive impact since arriving here in England in January but two of the finest goals anyone will see this season are hugely significant.

As well as reigniting Newcastle's push for a Champions League place in what now looks like a straight fight with Arsenal and Tottenham, the Senegal striker turned an already difficult Champions League final into an altogether more daunting one for Chelsea.

Unless something freakish happens and two of the three sides immediately above them suffer some kind

of collapse in their final two Barclays Premier League games, Chelsea will have to beat Bayern Munich in Munich on May 19 to guarantee Champions League football for a 10th consecutive season.

If John Terry's red card against Barcelona could yet prove costly, this defeat almost certainly will be.

It would seem harsh to criticise Roberto Di Matteo too much. He made six changes to the side that so convincingly beat QPR on Sunday but he did so because of the fatigue that has developed in his players after such a gruelling sequence of

games—this was their sixth game in 17 days—and a sequence that continues with Saturday's FA Cup final and another encounter with Liverpool on Tuesday.

But Chelsea were no match for a Newcastle side keen to recover from the defeat they suffered against Wigan at the weekend. Where Chelsea stumbled Alan Pardew's side excelled, Cisse's 13th goal in 12 appearance, an outrageous strike from wide left with the outside of his right boot, crowning a terrific team performance. At the front Cisse and Demba Ba provided a constant threat, in midfield

Cheick Tiote and Yohan Cabaye dominated, while in defence Fabricio Colocini was so commanding even David Luiz would declare him the best curly-haired centre half in the country.

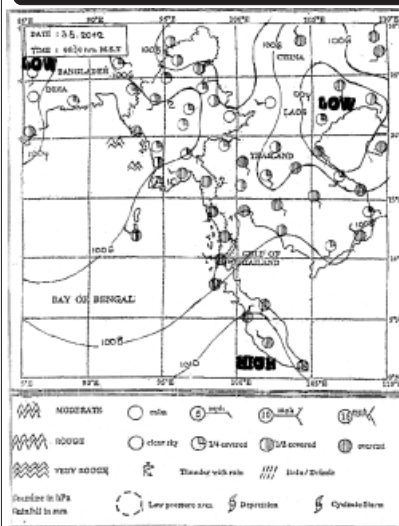
Torres was alone in mustering an immediate response, bursting down the right flank before delivering a cross Florent Malouda probably should have scored from but headed wide. For Krul, it was all a little too easy, for the keeper was barely tested in the first half. Di Matteo was already considering changes to his side, the Italian engaging in conversation with Juan Mata in the technical area. That Ba went as close as he did to doubling Newcastle's lead before the break only increased the sense of urgency for Di Matteo. Ba forced a fine save from Cech with one effort and then met a corner from the excellent Hatem Ben Arfa with a shot that rebounded off the bar.

Internet



Alan Pardew and Cisse celebrate at the end.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 4th May, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	33/91	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	34/93	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
3	Kayin	37/99	21/70	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chin	29/73	12/54	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sgawing	30/86	20/68	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sgawing	35/95	24/75	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	23/73	Likelihood of widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	40/104	25/77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
9	Magway	39/102	27/81	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	39/102	26/79	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	34/93	23/73	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	39/100	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
13	Rakhine	33/91	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	25/77	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	33/91	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	35/95	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	36/97	25/77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	39/102	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	39/100	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	39/102	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Tanintharyi Region, fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Ayeyawady Region and Mon State, isolated in Upper Sgawing Region, Chin and Kayah States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (2°C) to (4°C) above May average temperature in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Region and Eastern Shan, Kayah and Mon States, (5°C) above May average temperature in Kachin State and about May average temperature in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were (24°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Lashio (2.35) inches, Kachin (1.65) inches, Hmtha (1.10) inches and Maubin (0.75) inches.

Bay Reference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Health

Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital opened



Opening of Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May—Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee was opened today.

The ceremony to open the private special hospital was attended by Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development

Committee, invited guests and staff of the hospital.

The hospital was formally opened by Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Than Aung and Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Thang Tin Tun, and Union Minister U Thein Nyunt unveiled the signboard of the hospital.

After the ceremony, they visited the hospital. To carry out medical check-ups, the hospital was facilitated with devices such as CT Scanner, Model Sceneaia, 64 Slides computer

X-ray, Aperto Lucent MRI System, Fluoroscope DHF-155 VC2 X-Ray, X-Ray Machine (Inverter) Radnext 32, Ultrasonography & Echocardiography, Mammogram and Sophie Planned and pathology department which meets the international standard.

They also viewed the intensive care unit and operation rooms equipped with C-arm X-ray, Machine (HITACHI), Anaesthetic Machine (GRAGER), Operating Table (MIZUHO), Double Ceiling Operating Lamp (DRAGER).

The specialist hospital is built on the 100 acre land on Pynmana-Taungnyo in Zabuthiri Township, comprising two out-patient departments, one X-ray unit, one surgery unit, an intensive care unit, five medical wards, one obstetric and gynecologic ward, four private wards and one managing office and will run around the clock.

Specialists will carry out medical check-ups with the use of CT Scanner, Aperto, Lucent MRI System, Fluoroscopes & Ordinary X-Ray Mammogram, Ultrasonography and Echocardiography.

As a speciality, the hospital will provide special treatment to heart disease, kidney disease with the use of Haemodialysis, eye disease with the use of phaco, GI-track diseases with the use of scopy and Key Hole Surgery.

Besides, the hospital will provide special treatment to eyes, ears, nose and throat diseases and dental and oral diseases and will provide home service.

The hospital's health screening programme will help the people to do medical check-ups at reasonable prices.

The hospital has used ESMR machines for heart problems and LA, Petscan and Tomo machines for diagnosis of cancer.

The hospital has been established as a private special hospital with the aim of providing health care services and treatment to people at a reasonable cost at home.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May—Outstanding red cross members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society were honoured during their get-together conducted here today.

A total of 105 red cross members from regions and states were honoured at the office of Myanmar Red Cross Society in Dekkhinathiri Township.

Speaking at the ceremony to open the get-together, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin praised the outstanding red cross members for their excellent voluntary services during the time when the country was hit by natural disasters such as cyclone Nargis, cyclone Giri and Tahlay earthquake and for the disaster preparedness tasks.

Chairman of MRCS Prof Dr Thar Hla Shwe delivered an address at the opening ceremony. Officials presented certificates to 105 outstanding Red Cross members.—MNA

Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin delivers a speech at get-together 2012 of outstanding members of MRCS.—MNA

Outstanding red cross members honoured



Coelacanth find rewrites history of the ancient fish

SCIENCE DAILY, 3 May—Coelacanths, an ancient group of fishes that were once thought to exist only in fossils, made headlines in 1938 when one of their modern relatives was pulled alive from the ocean. Now coelacanths are making another splash—and

University of Alberta researchers are responsible for the discovery.

Lead U of A researcher Andrew Wendruff identified coelacanth fossils that he says are so dramatically different from previous finds, they shatter the theory that coelacanth evolution was

stagnant in that their body shape and lifestyle changed little since the origin of the group.

Wendruff says his one-metre-long, fork-tailed coelacanth was one of an "offshoot" lineage that lived 240 million years ago. It falls between the earliest coelacanth fossils dating back 410 million years and the latest fossils dated about 75 million years ago, near the end of the age of dinosaurs.

"Our coelacanth had a forked tail, indicating it was a fast-moving, aggressive predator, which is very different from the shape and movement of all other coelacanths in the fossil record," said Wendruff.

Internet



*The fast-swimming coelacanth *Rebellatrix* chasing smaller species of fishes in the Early Triassic ocean west of Pangaea.—INTERNET*

Myanmar selected Taekwondo team leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 3 May—A nine-member delegation led by Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department General Secretary of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Zaw Win left here by air this afternoon to take part in the 2nd Asian Taekwondo A Class Contest 2012 to be held in Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam from 4 to 11 May.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-President of MTF Daw Khin Sabai Kyi and executives.

Myanmar team comprises Chief Coach Mr Yu Ung Cho, A dancing coach U Thet Shein (Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries),

players Hsan Thet Shein, Thaw Zin Han, Chan Myae Aung, Yamin Kay Khine, Chaw Kalya Win and Thet Myat Oo Wai.

Likewise, the nine-member delegation led by Coach U Kyaw Than Oo (YCDC) of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation will

leave for Jo Chi Minh City on 9 May to take part in the 20th Asian Taekwondo Championship. The team will comprise players Naing Dway Shein, Francis Oo, Sgt Myo Min Thu, Kyaw Myo Tun, Win Tun Lin, Nway Nway, Hnin Le Yi Mon and Ywet Wah Tun.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (3-5-2012)

Launglon	(2.05) inches
Kawthoung	(1.65) inches
Hinthada	(1.10) inches
Maubin	(0.79) inch