

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XX, Number 23

8th Waning of Kason 1374 ME

Sunday, 13 May, 2012

True patriotism

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

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

Priority task of government is to satisfy desire, fulfill requirements of people

Work coordination meeting on more effectively carrying out national and regional development tasks concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May —President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivered a concluding address at the work coordination meeting on more effectively carrying out the national and regional development tasks held at the President Office here at 9 am today.

It was attended by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, union ministers, region and state chiefministers and chairmen and officials of the self-administered division and zones.

Participants of the meeting discussed reform process sector-wise during the meeting.

In his concluding address, the President said being elected by the people, the government is to make efforts for satisfying the desire and fulfilling

requirements of the people, considering the task is its priority.

The government has been making endeavors to ensure prevalence of peace and stability in the country and to promote the socio-economy of the people which are desired by the people, he added.

For the peace and stability of the country, the government has been working hard to achieve political stability while taking steps to make peace with ethnic armed groups after laying down policies.

He also stressed the need to step up efforts for promoting the agricultural sector for the food sufficiency in the future as part of efforts for promoting the socio economy and for building an industrial country to bring prosperity to the people.

(See page 8)



President U Thein Sein delivers a concluding address at work coordination meeting on more effectively carrying out national and regional development tasks at President Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (12-5-2012)

Paung	(1.93) inches
Bilin	(1.73) inches
Chaungzon	(1.61) inches
Thaton	(1.57) inches
Gwa	(0.63) inch
Hpa-an	(0.47) inch

NASA in test of rover for Mars mission



NASA ran mobility tests on California sand dunes in early May 2012 in preparation for operating the Curiosity rover, currently en route to Mars.

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Germany approves expansion of EU anti-piracy mission



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Chelsea pushing defensive pair hard to be fit for final



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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 13 May, 2012

Into the list of Asian Tigers

As national development drive calls for the progress of private sector, the government has been enacting new laws and making legal amendments offering wider opportunities for citizen entrepreneurs extend their businesses and cooperate with international counterparts. Moreover, it has been inviting and paving ways for global nations and institutions to render assistance and pump more investments into Myanmar economy.

As there are now offers of global nations and

financial institutions for greater cooperation and more investments in the nation, the domestic private sector needs human resources improvement both in quality and quantity, and the Union ministries and region/state governments on their part need adoption of new strategies and tactics based on national and regional development projects for ministry-wise and area-wise reforms covering such sectors as agriculture, industry, education, health, and the priority list for sector-wise implementation of these new strategies and tactics.

More and more independent associations, foundations, domestic non-governmental organizations, federations and so on are emerging in the country alongside the new private companies large and small thanks to the reforms

that guarantee a safe and secure business environment apart from opening new business frontiers in banking, transport, insurance, tourism, mining, trade, agriculture, farming, fisheries and entertainment.

Here, another important factor for national economic development is the enforcement of laws, rules and procedures and the elimination of irregularities in the entire business field and curbing of malpractices including cronyism and favoritism, especially in the part of administrative bodies at all levels.

Only then, will our country win better international trust and reputation one of sustainable and crucial advantages for robust gross national economic growth that will put Myanmar in the list of Asian Tigers.

Myanmar delegation led by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker pays study visit to Tokyo Stock Exchange, National Diet Library

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint on 9 May morning visited Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo. They were conducted round by Chairman and CEO Mr Saito and officials.

At the meeting hall, Mr Saito extended greetings and explained the establishment of Tokyo Stock Exchange in 1872, sales of shares in the current stock market and the importance of stock market in a nation for its economic development.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker asked questions about stock exchange and stock market.

The Myanmar delegation next visited Keidanren, a Japan business group. All the meeting with Chairman of Asia and Oceania Committee Mr

Kawamura and executive committee members and Japanese businessmen, the Speaker explained Myanmar's reform measures for its politics and economy, invitation of local and foreign investments, drafting of foreign direct investment law and special economic zone law and establishment of special economic zones.

On arrival at National Diet Library, the Speaker and delegation members were briefed by Chairman Mr Otake and Head of Research Department Mr Yamaguchi on keeping of publications, records on parliamentary meetings, records on statements and laws issued by the nation, providing of documents and books necessary for the parliament, visits of MPs and people to the state-owned library, measures being taken to let the people know about the



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and party observe Tokyo Stock Exchange.—MNA

parliamentary functions, keeping of records on MPs' discussions during parliamentary session, installation of electronic system with the library so

that documents can be read at the touch of a button and maintenance of the library.

After raising some questions, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw said

libraries play an important role in human resource development, adding that they were on a visit to the library as they wanted to study procedures and methods of Japan's parliamentary library. Myanmar has its national library for public study.

He went on to say that Myanmar is also planning to establish a parliamentary library. So, Myanmar wants to cooperate with Japan in building a network between the parliaments of the two nations, in exchanging publications and online study.

Then, the Speaker and party signed in the visitors' book and look round in the library. The National Diet Library was opened in 1948 and it is one of the largest libraries in the world. It keeps 37 million books published both internally and externally, documents on parliamentary sessions, documents on State announcements and laws. It has also kept records on discussions of MPs made beginning the first parliamentary meeting in 1942.

Secretary General of House of Councilors of Japan Mr Ha Shimoto gave an account of organizational set-up of the house and strength of staff and parliamentary functions. They then exchanged views on parliamentary issues.

In the evening, Japanese Former Prime Minister Mr Tarō Aso and Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe hosted a dinner to Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and delegation members.

Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association Chairman Dr Khin Shwe and General Secretary U Ye Htut also attended the dinner and they made cordial discussion on further strengthening of Myanmar-Japan friendship.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, who was also a delegation member, called on Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano at the latter's office in the evening. During the meeting, they exchanged views on industrial trade and investment.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Projects Implementation Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—A work coordination meeting between Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Projects Implementation Committees

took place at the office of Nay Pyi Taw Council here on 10 May morning.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for National

Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw spoke of the need to know if the aims of projects yield real benefits for the public, collect

correct data, review the implementation of the tasks of the 2011-2012 projects, realize the aims of the provisions included in national planning projects for 2012-2013 fiscal year, review progress in implementation of project tasks yearly and every three months, systematically draw projects for 2013-2014 FY, 2014-2015 FY and 2015-2016 FY and draw project plans that benefit both short- and long-term interests, implement eight tasks of rural development and poverty alleviation and collect combined data.

Next, committee chairman Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Than Htay discussed undertaking of the projects and functions of the committee. Then, the deputy minister gave a concluding remark.—MNA



Work coordination meeting between Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Projects Implementation Committees in progress.—MNA

NATO Head urges Pakistan to open transit routes

BRUSSELS, 12 May—NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen suggested on Friday that Pakistan could miss out on important talks on the future of Afghanistan if it fails to reopen supply routes in time to secure a place at a NATO summit in Chicago on 20-21 May.

Speaking at a news conference, Rasmussen made no explicit reference to excluding Pakistan—which closed transit routes to Afghanistan after 24 of its soldiers were killed in a NATO cross-border air attack

last November. But he noted that other countries providing supply routes to NATO had been invited to the summit, which will map out a future for Afghanistan after most foreign combat troops are withdrawn at the end of 2014.

"As I mentioned we have actually invited a number of countries from the region, neighbours of Afghanistan, Central Asian countries, Russia, because they provide important transit arrangements to the benefit of our operation," he said in response to a question.

"But as you also know

our transit routes through Pakistan are currently blocked so we have to continue our dialogue with Pakistan with a view to finding a solution to that because that's really a matter of concern."

Pakistan has demanded a formal apology from the United States for the cross-border attack before it reopens the supply routes, and has also called for an end to US drone strikes on its tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

With neither of those demands likely to be met, the



NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen addresses a news conference in Brussels on 11 May, 2012.—INTERNET

government faces the choice of making an embarrassing climbdown—politically tricky at time anti-Americanism is running high in Pakistan—or continuing to

hold out. Pakistan boycotted an international conference on Afghanistan in Bonn in December in protest against the NATO air strikes.

MNA/Reuters

Oil-tanker hijack causes no impact to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 12 May—The hijack of an oil-tanker carrying 950,000 barrels of crude oil for Indonesia in the Arabian Sea off Oman is not going to impact on the production of refinery in Indonesia as the country has more stockpile, official said.

The vessel, M/T SMYRN, a Liberian flagged tanker, is operated by a Greek firm. It lost contact on Thursday at 18:15pm Jakarta Time (1115 GMT). "The hijack of tanker carrying 950,000 barrel crude oil of Azery from Azerbaijan is not going to disturb the production of whole refinery in the country, particularly the refinery in Balikpapan (of East Kalimantan) which is the destination of the crude oil," Mochamad Harun, spokesman of the state oil-and-gas firm PT Pertamina said in a statement on Saturday. "The Pertamina has had a back up system of crude supply that allowed the Balikpapan refinery continue operation normally," he added.

Reuters

Xinhua

Prison guards secure the main gate of the newly named Baghdad Central Prison in Baghdad's Abu Ghraib on 21 Feb, 2009.
INTERNET



Appeals court revives Iraq contractor torture cases

WASHINGTON, 12 May—A US appeals court on Friday revived two lawsuits accusing

employees of two defence contractors of conspiring to torture and abuse Iraqis detained at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad and at other locations.

A 14-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, based in Richmond, Virginia, refused to intervene and dismiss the suits against CACI International Inc and L-3 Communications Holdings Inc, sending the cases back to district courts for further proceedings.

After the military invasion of Iraq in 2003, the United States hired contractors from US-based CACI and L-3 to provide translators and help conduct investigations. In 2004, photographs emerged depicting the abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. A number of military personnel were disciplined, but no contractors were charged.

In 2008, a number of Iraqis filed suits against CACI and L-3, accusing their employees

of inflicting physical and sexual abuse, electric shocks and mock executions on prisoners.

District courts in Virginia and Maryland rejected the companies' attempts to dismiss the suits. The companies had filed an interim appeal, before the cases could proceed, asking the 4th Circuit to throw out the claims. They pointed to a 2009 ruling by a federal appeals court in Washington, DC, that had dismissed a similar suit against the companies — a decision the US Supreme Court allowed to stand.

Reuters

Xinhua

Two killed, 16 injured in bomb attack in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 May—At least two people including one policeman was killed and 16 others injured when a remote-controlled bomb hit a police convoy in Pakistan's northwest city of Peshawar on Saturday morning, said police and hospital sources.

Javed Khan, Superintendent Police Headquarters of Peshawar, told local media that one policeman was killed and six others were injured when a police convoy carrying four prisoners got hit by a roadside planted bomb on the GT road in the Gulbahar area of Peshawar.

Hospital sources said that 17 injured people including six policemen and 11 civilians had been admitted into hospital following the blast and one of the injured civilians later died at hospital. They said that three of the injured people were still in critical condition, indicating a possible rise in death toll.

Earlier reports said that four people were killed in the blast.

The bomb attack took place at about 9:00 am local time when a police convoy comprising one pickup and a car was hit by a bomb hidden inside a tin container planted by the roadside while on the way sending back the four prisoners to the neighbouring city of Mardan after completing some court procedures in Peshawar.

MNA/Xinhua



A Hezbollah supporter (C) holds pictures of Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and assassinated Hezbollah military commander Imad Moughniyeh as other supporters wave Hezbollah flags while listening to Nasrallah's address via a screen during a ceremony in Beirut's southern suburbs, on 11 May, 2012.—INTERNET

Chavez shows strength after Cuba cancer treatment

CARACAS, 12 May—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez strode, sang and gave a rousing speech on Friday in a careful show of vigor after his latest cancer treatment in Cuba fanned rumours he was dying five months before an election.

The socialist Chavez, who had only been seen live in public once in the previous month, addressed the nation after flying back from Havana where he has completed six rounds of radiation therapy.

With Venezuelans watching on live TV for any sign of his condition,

Chavez walked with relative ease from his plane, hugged ministers, inspected a military guard and improvised a song at the end of a 20-minute speech.

"I can tell you that in the last few days we successfully completed the radiation cycle, as planned by the medical team," Chavez said in a strong voice.

"I come with great optimism that this treatment will have the effects we hope for, always asking God to help us and give us the miracle of life to keep serving."

The official line in recent weeks has been that

Chavez was out of the public limelight due to the effects of radiation treatment, but is on the road to recovery and will soon begin his re-election campaign ahead of the 7 October vote.

Reuters

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez (R) shakes hands with his Cuban counterpart Raul Castro upon his return to Venezuela, in Havana on 11 May, 2012. Chavez is undergoing cancer treatment even as he prepares to run for re-election in an 7 October presidential vote.

INTERNET



Hezbollah says able to strike anywhere in Israel

BEIRUT, 12 May—The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah said his militant group was capable of striking any target in neighbouring Israel, saying "the days when we fled and they did not are over".

"Today we are not only able to hit Tel Aviv as a city but, God willing, we are able to hit specific targets in Tel Aviv and anywhere in occupied Palestine," Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised address.

"For every building destroyed in Dahiya, a building will be destroyed in Tel Aviv," he said, referring to Hezbollah's stronghold in a suburb of southern Beirut.

Nasrallah's comments were some of his harshest words against Israel in several months, and came amid rising tensions between Israel and Hezbollah's main backer, Iran.

Reuters

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Hackers take down Kremlin Web site

Moscow, 12 May—The Russian president's Web site was shut down by a group calling itself Russian Anonymous, officials say.

The site, Kremlin.ru, was shut down for nearly an hour at 11 am on Wednesday, shortly after which the group

claimed responsibility for the attack. The group said it was done in solidarity with the Russian political opposition.

Interfax reported a spokesperson for the Kremlin's Internet service said other government sites were under attack as well.

On the eve of the inauguration of Vladimir Putin, *The Moscow Times* reported, Russian Anonymous posted a video threatening to hack government sites, saying it would help protesters break "false government sites."

Internet

Facebook's Zuckerberg says mobile first priority

PALO ALTO, (California), 12 May—Facebook chief executive officer (CEO) Mark Zuckerberg on Friday laid out his 2012 goals to investors on the Silicon Valley leg of his initial public offering (IPO) roadshow, saying his first priority was improving the social network's mobile application.

About 200 investors showed up at an IPO presentation in Palo Alto,

California, where they were given the opportunity to quiz Mr Zuckerberg and his lieutenants.

Wall Street had been concerned about the company's ability to wring revenue from mobile users, considered crucial for long-term growth.

Mr Zuckerberg and Ms Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's chief operating officer (COO), said the

company's overall advertising business was gaining steam, with most marketers increasing their spending with Facebook.

The two executives, who appeared on stage alongside finance chief David Ebersman, highlighted social ads as an important tool for Facebook to tackle its mobile challenge.

Reuters



Facebook chief executive officer Mark Zuckerberg on Friday laid out his 2012 goals to investors on the Silicon Valley leg of his initial public offering roadshow, saying his first priority was improving the social network's mobile application.—INTERNET

Biodiversity loss hits environment

SANT BARBARA, (Calif), 12 May—Biodiversity loss has as much negative impact on the environment as climate change and pollution, scientists at a California university say. An international research team working at the University of California, Santa Barbara, examined the effects of various environmental stressors on plant growth and decomposition, crucial maintenance processes in any ecosystem, and found the greater the plant species loss the higher the negative impact on plant growth.

"For the past 15 years, ecologists have built a rich understanding of the consequences of humans driving species extinct," researcher Jarrett Byrnes said in a UCSB release.

"What we didn't know

before this paper is whether those impacts of species loss rank up there with those from the major drivers of environmental change," he said.

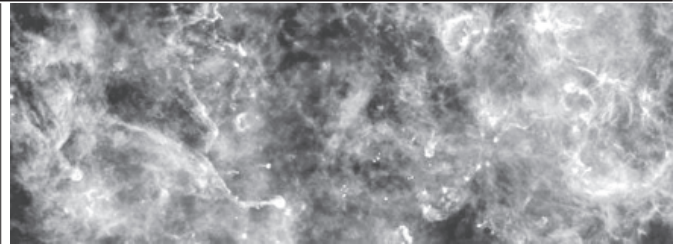
The effects of biodiversity loss were similar to the effects from other environmental stressors including global warming and pollution, he said.

Biodiversity should be considered alongside the more prominent forms of environmental impacts, he said.

"One thing this study opens up is the need to better understand the interactions between environmental change and species loss. They're not independent, and may interact in some particularly unexpected ways," said Byrnes.

Internet

NASA ran mobility tests on California sand dunes in early May 2012 in preparation for operating the Curiosity rover, currently en route to Mars.—INTERNET



This new view of the Cygnus-X star-formation region by Herschel highlights chaotic networks of dust and gas that point to sites of massive star formation.—INTERNET

Image captured of 'stellar nursery'

PARIS, 12 May—A European space observatory has imaged a star "nursery" and its network of dust and gas, which is creating a new generation of massive stars, scientists say.

The European Space Agency's Herschel space observatory took the infrared image of Cygnus-X, an extremely active region of star birth about 4,500 light years

from Earth in the constellation of Cygnus, the Swan. In the image, astronomers can see regions where dust has been gently heated by stars, and dense clumps of gas where new generations of stars are forming, the ESA reported from its Paris headquarters Thursday.

Bright white areas highlight zones where large stars have recently formed

out of turbulent clouds of dust and gas, carving out bubble-like structures with their immense radiation, astronomers said.

Herschel's infrared capability can probe the birth of large stars and their influence on the surrounding interstellar material with a level of detail never before available, astronomers said.

Internet

River helped keep oil spill from coast

PHILADELPHIA, 12 May—Environmental damage to coastal Louisiana following the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill was less than expected thanks to the Mississippi River, researchers say.

Geoscientists say a study reveals the force of the Mississippi River emptying into the Gulf of Mexico created mounds of freshwater that pushed back against much of the oil slick from the leaking Deepwater Horizon drilling rig offshore.

"The idea is that, if the water surface is tilting a little

bit, then maybe the oil will move downhill, sort of like a ball on a plate. If you tilt the plate, the ball will roll one way and then another," University of Pennsylvania researcher Douglas Jerolmack said.

"Surprisingly no one had really investigated the effect that the tilting of the water surface can have on the migration of oil," he said in a university release on Thursday. While many wetland habitats and wildlife were oiled during the three-month leak, a great part of the spreading slick never made it

to the coast, the researchers said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration used information from satellite data to issue daily forecasts of where the oil slick might travel, using computer models based on ocean currents.

"We noticed that there was a big disconnect between the forecasts of where the oil was going to be the next day and where the oil actually was the next day," Jerolmack said.

The researchers analyzed sea level data from

the period and confirmed the existence of several mounds and troughs in the Gulf.

"We recognized that there was a very persistent mound, a bump or a bulge, in the elevation of the sea surface in the vicinity of the Mississippi Delta," Jerolmack said, noting the oil spill coincided with the typical spring flood on the Mississippi that pushed a larger-than-normal flow of water into the Delta.

A mathematical model confirmed the slope of the mound was sufficient to direct the oil's movement, he said.

Internet

NASA in test of rover for Mars mission

DUMONT DUNES, (Calif), 12 May—NASA scientists say they have completed mobility tests on California sand dunes in preparation for operating the Curiosity rover currently on its way to Mars.

Researchers with the agency's Mars Science Laboratory mission took a test rover to Dumont Dunes in the Mojave Desert this week to improve knowledge of the best way to operate Curiosity, which is heading to Mars for an August landing at the Red Planet's Gale Crater, NASA reported on Friday.

The test rover utilized a full-scale version of Curiosity's mobility system but was stripped down so it weighs about the same on Earth as Curiosity will weigh in the lesser gravity of Mars, the researchers said.

Tests on windward and downwind portions of dunes will help the rover team make decisions about driving Curiosity on dunes near a mountain in the centre of Gale Crater, they said.

Curiosity is on track for landing 5 Aug to begin a two-year prime mission to investigate whether the area around its landing site has ever offered an environment favorable for microbial life.—Internet



World's most expensive USD 1.9m bicycle unveiled

MELBOURNE, 12 May—The world's most expensive and eco-friendly push bike has been made public and is on display at the Lentos Museum of Art in Linz, Austria.

The 1.9-million-dollar 'Fahrrad Farfall FFX' with a top speed of 16 km per hour, is the brainchild of Austrian artist Hannes Langerer, News.com.au reported. But rather than using V12 horse power, the 'car' operates with pedals where the accelerator and brake would be in a normal car.

Langerer built the car as part of an art project that anticipates a 'future top model of an actually existing automobile brand'.

The two-seat 'super bike-car' is aerodynamically designed, contains 11 gears, skinny wheels that work in tandem and two 'gullwing' doors that open upwards.

The car's name comes from the German word for bicycle - fahrrad, which stems from the Italian word for butterfly 'farfalla'.

Internet

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Health Tip: When your knee is unstable

Your thighbone has a v-shaped notch that accommodates your kneecap. If the groove is too narrow or shallow, the knee cap can become unstable and dislocate. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons says symptoms of an unstable kneecap include:

- * A buckling knee joint that can't support your weight.
- * A kneecap that seems to slide to the side during movement.
- * Pain in the front of your knee that worsens when you're moving.
- * Stiffness, swelling or pain when you sit down.
- * Cracking or creaking noises in your knee while you move.—Internet

Tool cuts down on ER CT scan exposure

CHICAGO, 12 May—A new electronic medical record tool cuts down on unnecessary CT scans in US hospital emergency patients with abdominal pain, researchers say. Dr Angela M Mills, medical director of the emergency department at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, said abdominal pain was the most common reason why people seek care in US emergency rooms, but the symptoms may be caused by myriad problems—simple tummy distress to a life-threatening ectopic pregnancy.

Emergency physicians tend to lean heavily on tests like CT scans, even though they expose patients to radiation. Fourteen percent of emergency room patients get scanned, contributing to ballooning healthcare costs. The researchers investigated a new tool embedded within patients' electronic medical records that walked physicians through a series of questions that served as checks and balances for their decision to order a CT scan to investigate a patient's abdominal pain.

The doctors were queried on what diagnosis they were looking for, from appendicitis to colitis to an ovarian cyst or tumor, and how likely they thought it that a patient had that problem. If a medical resident ordered the test, it had to be approved by an attending physician before the patient could receive the scan.—Internet



This photo provided on 30 March, 2012, the Hawaii State Dept of Health shows a male mosquito, Aedes aegypti, like the ones found at the Honolulu airport in January, 2012. After losing federal earmarks, Hawaii lawmakers are looking for state money to fund inspectors preventing pests from entering the islands and threatening local farms and the environment. The loss of Congressional earmarks mean Maui's airport will lose most of its inspectors if no state money is found to pay their salaries.—INTERNET

Blood test may help identify kids' smoke exposure

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 May—More than half of the children who took part in a study on exposure to cigarette smoke tested positive for such exposure, despite only a handful of their parents admitting to lighting up, according to a United States (US) study. Parents may think their children are exposed only if they're around

someone actively smoking a cigarette, or are unaware of where else their children may be breathing in smoke - but a blood test may help identify and reduce smoke exposure, said researchers at the University of California, San Francisco.

Secondhand smoke exposure in children has been tied to sudden infant death syndrome, respiratory problems, ear infections and asthma. "What the test does is allow the doctor, in consultation with the parent, to figure out the source of exposure and then to eliminate it," said Professor Jonathan Winickoff, an associate professor of paediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children in Boston.—Reuters

Common household chemicals 'behind cancer and reduced fertility'

LONDON, 12 May—Common chemicals found in household products may be the reason behind a range of medical problems such as cancer, reduced fertility and obesity, Europe's environmental watchdog has warned.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has warned that other items such as cosmetics and medicines, which contain endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), could be harmful to humans.

In a study published on Thursday, officials said that there was strong evidence of harm and cautioned against their use but stopped just short of recommending a complete ban.

According to the agency five classes of chemicals need more scrutiny.

These included phthalates, which are often found in pesticides bisphenol A and other PCBs, which are used to make plastics parabens that are increasingly found in sunscreen and chemicals used in contraceptive pills.

It found those chemicals, which disrupt the hormone system 'may be a contributing factor behind the significant increases in cancers, diabetes and obesity, falling fertility and an increased number of neurological development problems in both humans and animals'.

The agency said that in

recent decades, there has been a 'significant growth' in many human diseases and disorders including breast and prostate cancer, male infertility and diabetes.

It added that many scientists believe that the growth was connected to the 'rising levels of exposure to mixtures of some chemicals in widespread use'.

The agency also said that the link between some diseases and these disrupter chemicals was now fully accepted.

The findings, in a report titled 'The impacts of endocrine disruptors on wildlife, people and their environments', were made following a review of scientific studies literature commissioned by agency over the past 15 years.

'Scientific research gathered over the last few decades shows us that endocrine disruption is a real problem, with serious effects on wildlife, and possibly people,' the Telegraph quoted Jacqueline McGlade, the EEA Executive Director, as saying.

'It would be prudent to take a precautionary approach to many of these chemicals until their effects are more fully understood,' McGlade said.

She said the real problem was not a single chemical but the 'cocktail effect' of many of them together.

Internet



HP today expanded its industry-leading business computing portfolio with more than 30 new products—including the HP EliteBook Folio 9470m, designed from the ground up for business users who crave the sleek portability of an Ultrabook with the reliability, security and performance demands of end users and IT departments across businesses of all sizes.—INTERNET

Sony shares at near 32-year lows on strategy doubts

TOKYO, 12 May—Shares in Sony Corp slumped more than 7 percent to near 32-year lows, as investors doubted the Japanese consumer electronics giant has a strategy to fix its loss-making TV business and compete in the smartphone market against Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics.

The last time Sony shares were this low, in the summer of 1980, its first Walkman portable cassette player had just gone on sale in the United States. The maker of Bravia TVs, Vaio laptops and PlayStation games consoles on Thursday posted a record annual loss of \$5.7 billion, but forecast a first profit in five years as it looks to halve losses at its ailing TV business. The profit forecast was below analysts' expectations.

Japanese firms, which long dominated the global TV industry, have been overtaken by Samsung and LG Electronics (066570.KS), which are rolling out next-generation sets using organic light emitting display (OLED),

in a reshaping of Asia's flat panel sector. A stronger yen, which erodes the value of exports, has also not helped.

"(In the past) if you wanted a top quality TV you had to buy a Sharp, Panasonic or Sony. Those days are gone," Steve Durose, Senior

Director and Head of Asia-Pacific at Fitch Ratings, told Reuters last month.

"I didn't see anything positive in there (Sony's results)," said a trader at a US bank. "There's really nothing in there that can justify buying the stock. You see the loss narrowing in the TV business. That's fine, but I don't see any future in the TV business, so it doesn't matter what they do."

Shares of Panasonic Corp, which makes Viera TVs, also fell, 1.6 percent, to their lowest close in more than three decades. After the market closed, Panasonic also posted a record annual loss, of \$9.7 billion, and predicted a return to profit this year after a heavy bout of cost-cutting and restructuring.—Reuters



A Sony logo is seen as customers look at Sony's digital cameras at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 10 May, 2012.—INTERNET



This photo provided by Gilead Sciences shows Truvada. A panel of federal health advisers votes on 10 May, 2012, on whether to endorse the first drug shown to prevent HIV infection, potentially clearing the way for a landmark approval in the 30-year effort against the virus that causes AIDS. The Food and Drug Administration advisers will vote on whether Truvada should be approved as a preventative treatment for people who are at high risk of contracting HIV, such as gay and bisexual men.

INTERNET

Indonesia jet crash bodies sent for identification

JAKARTA, 12 May—Body bags containing the remains of people aboard a Russian jet that smashed into an Indonesian mountain, arrived in Jakarta on Saturday as Russian investigators landed to join the probe.

Rescuers said the bodies of those who perished when Sukhoi's new *Superjet 100*

hit Mount Salak in western Java on Wednesday, killing all on board, were badly dismembered.

Officials said the remains of the victims found so far had been placed in 16 body bags. Two had already arrived at a Jakarta hospital for identification with four more on the way.

"This morning we have 16 body bags. On Friday, there were 12, and four more were filled today (Saturday). No body was found in its whole form," West Java provincial military chief Sonny Widjaja said.

Each bag could contain the remains of more than one victim, he said. Officials said on Friday that 12 bodies had been found. A woman at Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusuma military airport, where the doomed flight took off, fainted as she watched men unload the first two body bags from a helicopter. The remains were taken by road to the Kramat Jati Police Hospital in east Jakarta for DNA identification. Relatives, told to wait at the hospital, wailed as they watched the bags arrive before being taken to the forensics division.

Internet



Soldiers carry a body bag containing the remains of passengers of the ill-fated Sukhoi plane crash, on arrival at Halim Perdanakusuma airport in Jakarta, on 11 May.

INTERNET

Japan faces 'extinction' in 1,000 years

TOKYO, 12 May—Japanese researchers on Friday unveiled a population clock that showed the nation's people could theoretically become extinct in 1,000 years because of declining birth rates.

Academics in the northern city of Sendai said that Japan's population of children aged up to 14, which

now stands at 16.6 million, is shrinking at the rate of one every 100 seconds. Their extrapolations pointed to a Japan with no children left within a millennium.

"If the rate of decline continues, we will be able to celebrate the Children's Day public holiday on 5 May, 3011 as there will be one child," said Hiroshi Yoshida,



File picture shows a group of elderly people resting on a bench in Tokyo.—INTERNET

an economics professor at Tohoku University.

"But 100 seconds later there will be no children left," he said. "The overall trend is towards extinction, which started in 1975 when Japan's fertility rate fell below two."

Yoshida said he created the population clock to encourage "urgent" discussion of the issue. Another study released earlier this year showed Japan's population is expected to shrink to a third of its current 127.7 million over the next century.

Government projections show the birth rate will hit just 1.35 children per woman within 50 years, well below the replacement rate.

Meanwhile, life expectancy — already one of the

Tara McDonald (2nd L), mother of slain eight-year-old Woodstock, Ontario girl Victoria Stafford, receives a hug from family outside the courthouse in London, Ontario, on 11 May, 2012, following a guilty verdict in the trial of Michael Rafferty, the accused in Victoria's murder.—REUTERS



Horrific child murder case ends with guilty verdict

TORONTO, 12 May—A Canadian man was found guilty of the murder, assault and kidnapping of an 8-year-old girl on Friday, after a gruesome two-month court case that horrified the country.

A jury in London, Ontario, found Michael Rafferty, 31, guilty of first degree murder, kidnapping and sexual assault, dismissing his girlfriend's testimony that she alone was responsible for killing Tori Stafford.

"We got him. We got justice," Tori's father Rodney Stafford told reporters outside the courtroom, showing the waiting TV cameras a picture of Tori. "It was for every little girl in Canada. Nobody deserves what happened to her."

In graphic testimony during the trial,

Terri-Lynne McClintic admitted she had kidnapped Tori from outside her school in April, 2009 and delivered her to Rafferty, who raped the child.

McClintic, who had already pleaded guilty to murder, said she then battered the girl to death with a claw hammer, a version of events that the jury dismissed with their verdict.

It was three months before anyone found Tori's badly decomposed body and forensic experts said they could not determine if the child had been sexually assaulted.

But in evidence never presented to the jury, prosecutors said a computer found in Rafferty's car included searches for topics including "underage rape," "real underage rape pictures" and "nude preteen."—Reuters

Attacker in Afghan uniform kills US soldier

KABUL, 12 May—A man wearing an Afghan army uniform shot dead a US soldier in the east of the country, one of two NATO troops killed on Friday, military officials said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

Also Friday, the US-led military coalition offered condolences to the families of Afghan civilians who were killed in airstrikes earlier this month.

The shooting was the 15th incident this year in which Afghan soldiers or insurgents disguised in military uniforms have turned their weapons on foreign troops. The killings have increased the level of mistrust between the US-led

coalition and its Afghan partners and raised questions about the readiness of local forces to take over from NATO ahead of a 2014 deadline for the withdrawal of foreign combat troops.

An Afghan defence official said the incident took place in Kunar Province in northeast Afghanistan. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

NATO did not disclose the nationality of the trooper killed, but a Pentagon spokesman, Navy Capt. John Kirby, said the service member was an American.

Internet



An Afghan child looks at UN Humanitarian chief Valerie Amos, unseen, during her visit to an informal settlement in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 9 May, 2012.—INTERNET

Two arrested after five children die in British house fire

LONDON, 12 May—British police arrested two people on suspicion of murder after five children died in a house fire on Friday in the central English city of Derby.

"Sadly I can now confirm that five children have died, and their ages range from five to 10 years," said Assistant Chief Constable Steve Cotterill of Derbyshire Police.

Detectives are keeping an open mind about what caused the fire, he told a news conference. A 28-year-old woman and a 38-year-old man were arrested separately on suspicion of murder. Cotterill said two adults and a sixth child, aged 13, were being treated in hospital, after emergency services were called to the semi-detached house early Friday. The teenager remains in a critical condition.

The children's father was named in media reports as 57-year-old Mick Philpott, a father of 17 who made headlines in 2007 when he appeared in a television documentary about welfare made by 1990s prisons minister Ann Widdecombe.—Internet



Police have arrested a woman in her twenties on suspicion of murder after the death of five children in a fire in this house in Derby.—INTERNET

Three Boston U students killed in New Zealand crash

WELLINGTON, (New Zealand), 12 May—Three Boston University students who were studying in New Zealand were killed on Saturday when their minivan crashed. At least five other students from the university were injured in the accident, including one who was in critical condition.

The students were travelling in a minivan at about 7:30 am on Saturday near the North Island vacation town of Taupo when the vehicle drifted to the side of the road and then rolled when the driver tried to correct course, New Zealand police said.

Three of the students died at the scene, police said. Another woman was in critical condition at an area hospital, while at least four other students suffered moderate injuries.

Joseph Bergen, the US vice consul in Auckland, New Zealand, identified the deceased students as Daniela Lekhno, Roch Jauberty and Austin Brashears, according to the Boston University website. New Zealand police confirmed their identities.

Another BU student, Margaret Theriault, was airlifted from the crash site to a hospital in Taupo and was in critical condition, the university said.

Internet

International Urban Rescue Course concludes in Ye



YE, 12 May—Ye Township Fire Services Department of Mon State concluded the International Urban Rescue Course No 2/2012 at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 29 April morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Tun Naing Win made a concluding remark.

Next, Mon State Minister U Naing Lawi Aung presented completion certificates to the trainees and the Township Administrator, the Commander of Township Police Force and the head of Township Fire Services presented certificates of honour, auxiliary fire brigade member cards and duty assignment to the trainees.

FSD

Preventive measures against diarrhea and dysentery taken

YANGON, 12 May—Under the arrangement of prevention against diarrhea and dysentery, officials of Shwepyitha Township Health Department, Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the ward administrator inspected wastes and sanitation of fly-proof latrines in ward 6 of Shwepyitha Township on 5 May afternoon.

Next, officials gave talks on health knowledge.

After that, they provided



commodes and pipes to the needy households for construction of fly-proof latrines.—Myanma Alin

Officials of Township MCWA distribute commodes and pipes to needy households.



BO TREE WATERED: Local people pour water at Bo tree for 11th time at Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image in Insein Township on 5 May, Fullmoon Day of Kason.—DISTRICT IPRD

Information for anti-human trafficking

The government is carrying out undertakings of preventive measures against trafficking in person with momentum.

In so doing, telephone numbers are announced as the connections with authorities concerned for enabling the people to actively participate in anti-human trafficking activities.

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.

Maintenance of golf course discussed

YANGON, 12 May—Jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar Golf Course Maintenance Supervisory Group, the demonstration on golf course maintenance techniques and discussions was held with the sponsorship of Forest Park Group at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon on 5 May.

It was attended by Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Golf Federation U Min Thein and U Aung Kyi, executive U Chan Han, Chairman of Myanmar Golf Course Maintenance Group U Myo

Dan and executives and officials of the golf courses.

Vice-President U Aung Kyi explained the purpose of demonstration to upgrade the golf courses in Myanmar.

At the demonstration, golf course experts Mr John Neylan, Mr Phil Ryan, Mr Peter Sawyer and Mr Gavan

Wilson discussed maintenance of golf courses in detail and replied to questions raised by those present.

The discussion was jointly sponsored by LINKS gold services, Pacific Coast Design and Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd.—Myanma Alin



New library building opened in Myaungmya

MYAUNGMYA, 12 May—With the aim of broadening the horizon of the rural people, Shwe Alin Ein Library was opened in Shwelunkon Village of Htonbo-Byaingphyu Village-tract in Myaungmya Township on 23 April.

Wellwisher U Ko Tin, Village administration member U Hla Win and Staff Officer of Myaungmya District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Hla Kyi formally opened



the library.

The library building is 18 feet long and 12 feet wide and concrete floor. The

building was constructed at a cost of over K 900,000 by wellwisher U Ko Tin and local people.—District IPRD

DISTRICT NEWS

Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 12 May—The 51st ceremony of Kason water pouring at Bo tree was held at Yan Myo Aung Pagoda in Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region on 5 May morning.

Members of the Sangha, members of Yan Myo Aung Pagoda Board of Trustees

and wellwishers poured water at Bo tree.

At 8.25 am, wellwisher Daw Paññawaty (a) Daw Myint Myint Khin, U Ye Min, Ma Thida Khaing and family hoisted umbrella atop Pylon Chantha Katkyaw Pagoda.

San San Kyi-Thingangyun



Talks on traffic rules given in Hinthada

HINTHADA, 12 May—Under the supervision of Hinthada District Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee, the talk on traffic rules was held at the district office of Directorate of Road Administration in Hinthada on 29 April.

The talk was attended by vehicle owners, drivers, bus conductors, members of All Private Bus-line Control Committee and gate owners, members of Padetha and Htay Win markets.

The deputy commis-

Talks on traffic rules in progress at office of Hinthada District Directorate of Road Administration.

sioner of Hinthada District General Administration Department made a speech. Head of District Transport Planning Department U Hla Myint explained the work licence.

Head of District Directorate of Road Administration U Aung Win-1 gave talks on traffic rules and disadvantages of traffic rule offenders, penalty for traffic rule offenders, educated period and project to take action.

Township Engineer U Soe Myint of Public Works and IP Zaw Zaw of District Traffic Police Force explained matters related to their respective sectors.

Later, officials replied to queries raised by those present.—Myanma Alin

Pazundaung Township Writers Association formed

YANGON, 12 May—A ceremony to constitute Pazundaung Township Writers Association was held at Pazundaung Township Information and Public Relations Department on 6 May morning.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Min Thura and CEC member of Myanmar Writers Association U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), CEC member U Khin Swe (Shwe Sun Nyo) and members.

U Khin Aung (Reporter Khin Aung) presided over the meeting. U Than Tun (Thiha Yazar) acted as MC. Meeting chair U Khin Aung made a speech, and the master of ceremonies recounted experiences in the 5th emergency conference.

Next, CEC member U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) gave a speech. Joint Secretary U San

Myint (Yekyaw Soe Aung) read the report.

After that, U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thauk Kyar), U Hla Kywe (Tekkatho Hla Kywe), U Kyaw Yoe (U Pyae Sone), U Myo Myint (Tekkatho Myo) and U Khin Aung (Reporter Khin Aung) were elected as patrons of the township association, U Nyi Nyi Aung (Nyi Nyi Aung) was elected as chairman, U Kyi Tha (Maung Thein Ya) as vice-chairman, U Than Tun (Thiha Ayeyawady) as secretary, U San Myint (Yekyaw Soe Aung) as joint secretary, Daw Nilar Tun (Nilar Tun) as treasurer, U Kyaw Lin (Zoo Kyaw) and U Wai Myint (Minye Theinkha) as executives.

They chose Chairman U Nyi Nyi Aung (Nyi Nyi Aung) and Secretary U Than Tun (Thiha Ayeyawady) as representatives to the conference.—Myanma Alin



Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint submits a report.—MNA



Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai presents a report.—MNA

Priority task of the government...

(from page 1)

A lot of Myanmar people are working in foreign countries as migrant workers due to job shortages in the country, causing loss to the country, he said. Therefore, it is needed to establish industrial

zones, plants and factories by inviting foreign investors in the country as part of efforts for creating job opportunities so that Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries can get jobs at home and to make efforts for producing value-added products to export to foreign countries, he added.

He also called on region and state governments and chairmen of self-administered division and zones for putting

relentless efforts in taking steps to make peace with ethnic armed groups as prevalence of the peace and stability of the country is sine qua non for promoting the socio-economy of the people.

He also urged them to encourage and provide assistance within the framework of law to the ethnic armed groups who are holding peace talks with the government



Chairman of Leading Body of Kokang Self-Administered Zone U Pe Sauk Chein (a) U Be Hsaw Chein presents a report.—MNA



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin submits a report.—MNA

with the aim of reaching agreement for ceasefire for ever and achieving the eternal peace.

He called on them to make efforts for understanding among the armed groups about the genuine goodwill of the government which has been striving to achieve the eternal peace.

The meeting came to an end in the evening.—MNA

Union Minister oversees regional development tasks in Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, accompanied by Shan State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Aung Thu and departmental officials, met lecturers and national races youths at Border Area and National Races Youth Development Training School in Lashio on 8 May.

He said the government is striving for narrowing the development gap among national races, ethnic people need to pursue formal education while young, they could contribute to their own regions only with hard work, and the country would develop only when the national race regions develop. So, he called for flourishing of union spirit and striving for development of their regions.

He then proceeded to Vocational Training School in Lashio where he met trainees and called for production of marketable products.

The Union minister inspected Takawat-Mongpat-Pangsan road constructed with the Border Area Development Fund on



Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay presents cash assistance to patients at Mongla People's Hospital.—MNA

9 May and arrived at Pansawng in "Wa" Special Region (2) in the evening.

On 10 May, he inspected development of Pangsan, Basic Education High School and People's Hospital.

In meeting with "Wa" Special Region (2) national leader U Pauk Yu Chan and party, he discussed that the Union government would take measures for endurance of genuine peace between itself and "Wa" Special Region (2). The organization should avoid behaviours that could cast doubt on peace. The

government would continue to realize development of "Wa" Self-Administered Division. Roads in the region are being upgraded with the Border Area Development Fund. The government would seek international assistance for border area development. His trip was bound to bring about peace and development to the region, he said.

He coordinated border area development tasks and attended to the needs. The Union Minister then discussed cooperation of the region in drug elimination and peace-

making at Union level.

The Union Minister presented cash assistance of K 449.5 million for development of the region.

He then viewed rubber and tea plantations on his way from Pangsan to Mongla.

Yesterday, the Union Minister visited Shan State (East) Special Region (4) Drug Elimination Museum and attended to the needs.

On arrival at Mongla People's Hospital which was constructed with the Border Area

Mandalay Region Chief Minister inspects Natka Dam

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint on 8 May inspected Dhammithaya Nursery in Taungtha Township and gave instructions on greening of Taungtha Hill and the whole township.

After looking into Natka Dam near Medi Village of Pyawbwe Township, the Region Chief Minister gave instructions on cultivation of crops on 1200 acres of

farmlands in the irrigated area of Natka Dam, systematic supply of water and supplying surplus water to 2430 acres of farmland.

He viewed thriving Paletwe paddy plantation on eight acres of farmland in Sitha Village, thriving Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton in Wetlet Village-tract and Kyaukse Lake in Pyawbwe Township and Kyeeni Lake in Yamethin Township.

MNA

Shwekon-Pilakhat concrete road opened

YANGON, 12 May—A ceremony to inaugurate Shwekon-Pilakhat concrete road was held in Kyauktan Township of Yangon Region this morning.

Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint unveiled the stone inscription, Region Minister for Planning and Economic

U Than Myint, Region Minister for Forestry and Energy U Kyaw Soe, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and officials formally opened the new road.

The 18480 feet long, 18 feet wide and eight inches thick concrete road was built at a cost of over K 700 million.—MNA

Development Fund, he comforted the patients.

At Mongla Special Region (4) Headquarters, he met Vice-Chairmen U San Pae, U San Lu, U Tun Lin and party of the region who discussed necessities of the region. He attended to the needs and said his trip was intended to strengthen peace and engagement between the government and the region. He reiterated his call for

avoidance of behaviours that could lead to misunderstanding on prevailing peace. The Union minister guaranteed the all-round development of the region as well as international aids.

The Union Minister provided K 31 million assistances for the region.

He then visited rubber and tea plantations in the region.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

They then proceeded to Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport where they stayed.

The Myanmar delegation paid homage to Todaiji Buddha Image in Nara of Nara District and viewed religious edifices. The Buddha Image was erected since 749 AD and is 15 meters high.

The delegation also visited Todaiji Nara Park and viewed environmental conservation there.

The speaker and party in the evening arrived at Kyoto Hotel Okura in Kyoto where they stayed.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Speaker of Lower House of Japan Mr YOKOMICHI.

MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and party view meeting hall of Upper House of Japan.—MNA

Kayin State Chief Minister supervises development undertakings

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min on 7 May viewed collective ploughing of monsoon paddy and broadcasting of natural fertilizer near Tawunphanya Model Village in Hpa-an Township.

In Shwegun Village of Hlaingbwe Township, Chief Minister U Zaw Min and wife Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai, state ministers and social organization members paid

respects to 101 years old Daw Aye Kyu.

He looked into progress of Myainggyingyu-Methawaw asphalt road and thriving sugarcane plants. At Thitsa Linmyaing war veterans housing, he cordially greeted the families and presented cash assistance to the war veterans who sacrificed limbs.

The State Chief Minister presented cash assistance to patients and staff at

Myainggyingyu Station Hospital.

At Myainggyingyu Basic Education High School, he met teachers and local people and then viewed nurturing of 90,000 rubber saplings.

The State Chief Minister delivered an address at opening of advanced tailoring course and basic domestic science course at the training schools in Myainggyingyu, Hpa-an and Myawady.—MNA

Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism holds third conference

YANGON, 12 May—The third annual conference of Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism of Myanmar Medical Association was opened at Traders Hotel, here, this morning.

Chairman of MMA Prof Dr Kyaw Myint Naing and Chairman of Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism Prof Dr Tint

Swe Latt made speeches.

They also unveiled the medicine and medical equipment salesrooms.

The conference will be held till 13 March. Those present will participate in 11 symposiums.

At the conference, the participants will exchange views on latest findings of diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis and goiter

diseases, therapies of international level and research results.—MNA

Asia Rowing Federation Umpiring Commission views preparations for rowing event

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—The Leading Committee for Preparations for Organizing the XXVII SEA Games invited scholars and experts of respective sports for holding

the games meeting international standards.

The Leading Committee is preparing for the stadiums, gymnasiums, swimming pool and lakes, supporting

buildings and equipment.

This morning, Chairman Mr Nicholas Ee of Asia Rowing Federation Umpiring Commission together with officials of Myanmar Rowing

Federation viewed the preparations for the competitions at Ngalaik Dam in Nay Pyi Taw Kyawshin.

Officials of Ministry of Sports and MRF and construction engineers held talks with Mr Nicholas Ee who gave necessary suggestions for preparations.—MNA

Loans disbursed for Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation in Tatkon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing this morning attended the disbursement of loans at the rate of K 200,000 per acre held at Yeaye and Naungdonaing village-tracts in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and made a speech.

The Union Minister in his speech expressed his pleasure for cooperation of Ayeyya Hintha Co of Myanmar Rice Industry Association for development of agricultural sector, stressing the importance for the farmers and the company to cooperate with mutual trust and understanding. The

Union Minister also urged the farmers to produce quality paddy in order to gain high price and international market and proper storage of paddy.

He also called on farmers to hand down the achievement of the current paddy filed as a total of over 50000 acre in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are to be put under Palethwe hybrid paddy in the coming paddy cultivation season and to do their bit for the development of agriculture sector as Palethwe hybrid paddy can benefit them a lot.

Next, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint

Shwe made a speech and called for those responsible to impart the agriculture knowledge to farmers throughout the township.

Afterwards, General Manager of Ayeyya Hintha Co U Tin Ohn made a speech, calling for farmers to produce quality paddy and pledged to build the modern rice mill in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and presented K 2.2 million for 110 acres.

After that, the Union Minister and party looked into the thriving 110 acre-Palethwe hybrid paddy and fertilizer, Palethwe hybrid paddy plants, paddy seeds displayed near the briefing hall.—MNA

Coord meeting on Asia Pacific Junior Golf Championship held

YANGON, 12 May—The coordination meeting on 33rd Asia Pacific Junior Golf Championship to be hosted by Myanmar at Pun Hlaing Golf Club from 15 to 18 May was held at the hall of Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Sports in Tamway Township this

afternoon, with an address by Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Than Myint.

Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute Director U Tin Win reported on fulfillment for requirements in the championship, Executive of Myanmar Golf Federation U

Aung Tun Oo preparations for the championship and officials of respective subcommittees.

A total of 23 players from Myanmar, 14 from India, 10 from Thailand, six from Hong Kong, five from Malaysia and one from the Philippines will participate in the championship.—MNA

Talks on spa & health care services on 14 May

YANGON, 12 May — Talks on beauty and health care services in northern region of Thailand will be conducted by Department of International Trade Promotion of Ministry of Commerce of Thailand at Chatrium Hotel in Tamway Township from 9 am to noon on 14 May.

After the talks, the department and Myanmar entrepreneurs will hold a business matching over business opportunities for spa and health care services of Thailand from 1 to 5 pm. Those who are interested in the meeting are invited to participate in the business matching.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw meets Deputy Speaker of Upper House of Japan, tours Tokyo

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint arrived at Tokyo University on 7 May and they were briefed by Executive Vice President Research Professor Mr Kiyoshi Yoshikawa, Executive Vice President Professor Mr Yuzo Ohnishi and Professor Mr Koichi Ono. They said that Tokyo University is a centre turning out novel prize winners and ; that two post graduate candidates and five doctorate candidates from Myanmar are now learning at the university; that at present it is learnt that Myanmar is in the process of political, economic reform; that the university is desirous of cooperating in the development of Myanmar in whatever way it can; that they were pleased to see the visit of the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and party to Japan; Japanese people have learnt that Myanmar people are religious and hard working; that arrangements have been made for researchers of the university to conduct researches in Myanmar; that the university focuses on research in line with its motto "Freedom and Innovation" and it will cooperate with Myanmar in national development and human resource development.

After asking for his knowledge about the university, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw said that democratization process calls for system change; that the legislative, administrative and judiciary are being exercised separately based on check and balance system in line with the Constitution of Myanmar; that steps have been taken for all national races to participate in the political process; that with the prevalence of peace and stability the country is making process in economic sector; that Myanmar welcomes the researchers of the university; that friendly ties between the two peoples is imperative in fostering Myanmar-Japan friendship; and that the visit to Japan by Myanmar delegation is aimed at further cementing friendship between the two Hluttaws and peoples.

Afterwards, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw presented books and documentaries on Myanmar.

Next, the Myanmar delegation proceeded to South East Asian research division where they were briefed by Professors Mr Hiromu Shimizu and Mr Koichi Fujita on research works, and the professors introduced them with Japanese researchers and Myanmar trainees studying there.

The Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw said that he was



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint holds meeting with officials from Tokyo University.—MNA

pleased to see professors of the university and Myanmar trainees; that the new findings of a researcher can benefit the whole people in the world; that Myanmar is making much headway in economic sectors with peace and stability prevailed in the nation; that environmental conservation is a must in that regard. Afterwards, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw requested Japanese researchers to teach Myanmar trainees into becoming outstanding researchers and called for Myanmar trainees to try their utmost to be able to bring honour to the nation.

Next, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and party had a documentary photo together with officials of the university.

Afterwards, they were hosted a lunch by Japan-Myanmar Association.

Also present at the launch were Chairman of Japan-

Myanmar Association Mr Koji Chino and executives, Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association Dr Khin Shwe and General Secretary U Ye Htut.

Later, the Myanmar delegation visited the Tenryuji Buddhist Temple and went sightseeing in the environs of the Arashiyama.

Next, they went to the Kinkaku-Ji Pagoda and observed the religious structure.

Deputy Speaker of the Japanese Upper House Mr Otsuji called on Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at the State Guest House in Tokyo at 5.30 pm.

They had a discussion on further strengthening friendship between Myanmar and Japan Hluttaws and exchanged views on matters of the two Hluttaws. In the late evening, Deputy Speaker Mr Otsuji hosted a dinner to the Myanmar delegation at the state Guest House.—MNA

Literary talks given in Singaing



SINGAING, 12 May—Under the arrangement of Singaing Township Administrator Office, a literary talks was held at the Dhammayon of Ayondaw meal offering association in the township on 6 May afternoon.
Writer Chit Naing

(Psychology) and writer Ledwintha Saw Chit gave literary talks.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

UNIFORMS PROVIDED: A ceremony to present uniforms to staff of Yangon East District Administrative Office was held at the meeting hall of the district General Administration Department on 4 May. Deputy Commissioner U Hlaing Soe Thant presents uniforms worth K 451,500 to staff members.—MYANMA ALIN

Momauk Township GAD observes Workers' Day

MOMAUK, 12 May—The Workers' Day was observed at the hall of General Administration Department in Momauk Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State on 1 May morning.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Nyan Hlaing read the message sent by President of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein for the Workers' Day.

Myanma Alin



Written exam result for NPE junior reporter posts announced

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information has today announced the 30 roll numbers that passed the 30 March written exam for vacant Junior Reporter (Salary Scale K 59000-1000-64000) posts.

The roll numbers at Nay Pyi Taw exam centre are 17, 22, 27, 47, 48, 50, 51, 59, 61, 62, 82, 85, 86, 96, 112 and 116 and those at Yangon exam centre are 15, 19, 21, 28, 30, 31, 40, 41, 53, 56, 91, 107, 109 and 120.

Personnel interview is scheduled at 9 am on 24 May

at Nay Pyi Taw Daily, Khayaybin Junction, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw and those who passed the exam are to inform the daily at 8.30 am on the same day. For more details, one may contact Director (News) of the enterprise (067-412126).—MNA

Mudon forms Traditional Artistes and Artisans Association

MUDON, 12 May—Myanmar Traditional Artistes and Artisans Association (Central) formed the Mudon Township Traditional Artistes and Artisans Association at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Mudon on 3 May morning.

Township Administrator U Khin Maung Than made a speech. Chairman of the Association (Central) U Maung Maung Hla Myint explained matters related to the association, election of new executives and future tasks.

Secretary of the association (Central) U Ni Po Oo explained uplift of life of the association members, establishment of libraries for enhancement of their professions, participations of artisans in the association.

Myanma Alin

JPMorgan \$2 billion loss hits shares, credit, image

NEW YORK/LONDON, 12 May—JPMorgan Chase & Co lost \$15 billion in market value and a notch in its credit ratings on Friday while a chorus of regulators and politicians reacted to its surprise \$2 billion trading loss by demanding stiffer oversight for the banking industry.

The loss by one of Wall Street's most respected banks embarrassed chief executive Jamie Dimon, a leader lauded for steering his bank through the fallout from the 2008 financial crisis without reporting a loss.

"We know we were sloppy. We know we were stupid. We know there was bad judgment," Dimon said in an interview with NBC television to be broadcast on "Meet the Press" on Sunday. He said it wasn't clear whether the bank had broken any laws or violated any rules. "We've had audit, legal, risk, compliance, some of our best people looking at all of that."

The loss also invited regulatory scrutiny for a man who had all but led the charge to limit it, criticizing the so-called Volcker rule to ban proprietary trading by big banks.

The *New York Times* reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission has opened a preliminary investigation into JPMorgan's accounting practices and public disclosures

A man walks into the JPMorgan headquarters at Canary Wharf in London on 11 May, 2012.—REUTERS



about the trading loss.

On Friday, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Mary Schapiro told reporters: "It's safe to say that all the regulators are focused on this."

The debacle sparked new fears about big banks and prompted Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Richard Fisher, who has called for the breakup of the top five US banks, to say he is worried the biggest banks do not have adequate risk management.—Reuters

Cuba to invest 450 m USD to promote rice production

HAVANA, 12 May—Cuba plans to invest 450 million US dollars to raise rice production, a major grain on the island, an official from the Ministry of Agriculture said on Friday. Lazaro Diaz, general director of the state-run Agro industrial Grain Group under the Ministry, said that 108 million dollars of the investment programme had already been raised with the aim of modernizing the agricultural machinery. He said the investment programme was based on the support and advice of the experts and technicians from Cuba, Vietnam, Japan and China and was aimed at gradually reducing rice imports.

Cuba spends about 2 billion dollars every year in importing food. The Cuban authorities have realized the importance of raising the national rice production to meet the domestic demands. Since taking office in 2008, Cuban leader Raul Castro has repeatedly warned that the country, suffering a serious economic crisis, cannot afford the expensive imported food. The Cuban government has adopted several measures to promote food production, including the delivery of over a million hectares of idle lands to farmers and the granting of bank loans for farmers to buy agricultural machinery.

Xinhua

Ashton hopes new talks to end Iran nuke programme

EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton talks during an interview at the newly opened European Union Office at Yangon on 28 April, 2012. REUTERS



BRUSSEL, 12 May—The European Union's foreign policy chief said on Friday she hoped upcoming talks with Iran would form the basis for Tehran to eventually abandon its alleged nuclear weapons project.

Speaking ahead of talks scheduled for 23 May in Baghdad, Catherine Ashton — who has been representing the major powers at talks about Iran's nuclear activity — said she had high hopes for the new round of negotiations.

"My ambition is that we come away with the beginning of the end of the nuclear weapons programme in Iran," she told reporters in Brussels. "I hope we'll see the beginnings of success." The West suspects Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons, but Iran says its programme is purely for peaceful purposes such as power production.

Negotiations over its alleged military programme resumed in Turkey in April after a 15-month hiatus, and are due to resume on 23 May in Baghdad.

Ashton said she would approach the talks as a "serious set of discussions that can lead to concrete results".

Iran has said it wants sanctions introduced by the United States and the EU to dissuade it from pushing ahead with its nuclear ambitions to be scaled back.

But Western diplomats say Iran must first take concrete steps to ease their concerns. The sanctions have targeted Iran's energy and banking sectors since the beginning of this year, and the EU is preparing for a total embargo on the purchase of Iranian crude oil in July.—Reuters



A man carries a matting at temporary shelter after a geologic hazard in Liuzhou City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 11 May, 2012.—XINHUA

Britons get gloomier — long, hard revival to come

LONDON, 13 May—Britons turned gloomier last month as a slump in construction pointed to an even deeper recession and producers ramped up prices, highlighting the long and difficult road back to economic health.

The economy has not fully recovered from the downturn caused by the 2007-2009 financial crisis, with many Britons left poorer as meagre wage growth has been eaten up by rising prices and government tax hikes.

Central bankers and politicians have only limited options to support the economy.

The Bank of England decided on Thursday not to give the struggling economy another cash boost, as its concerns over stubbornly high inflation outweighed worries of a prolonged recession and dangers from the euro zone crisis.

Nor can consumers and businesses rely on much help from the government, after Prime Minister David Cameron reaffirmed his commitment to cutting a huge budget deficit, defying criticism over a lack of bold steps to kick-start growth.

Consumer morale worsened last month as Britons became more worried about jobs, lender Nationwide said on Friday,

Office rental signs hang on balconies of a block in central Barcelona on 11 May, 2012. Spain on Friday ordered its banks to significantly increase funds set aside against mounting losses from toxic real estate lending and pledged limited government aid for weaker lenders in the form of high-interest loans.—REUTERS



Lack of new cash disappoints in Spain bank reform

MADRID, 12 May—Spain's government tried to plug a gaping hole in the country's banking system on Friday, but the fourth such attempt to tackle the fallout from a property crash fell short of expectations.

The centre-right government offered high-interest loans to banks on the brink in a crisis which is shaking the euro zone, and ordered an independent audit of lending across the entire banking sector, as the European Union had asked.

"This is not the definitive clean-up framework that the market is clamoring for," said Nicholas Spiro from Spiro Sovereign Strategy. "Spanish bank restructuring is a moving

target: the deeper the economic downturn, the greater the uncertainty about the size of the sector's provisioning needs."

Spain's troubled banks, with more than 184 billion euros (\$238 billion) in problem loans and assets after the property bubble burst four years ago, lie at the core of the euro zone debt crisis due to fears that a massive rescue could push Spanish public finances to breaking point.

The immediate market reaction to Friday's government announcements was negative. But later the gap between yields on Spanish and German benchmark government bonds — a measure of how risky investors

judge lending to Spain to be — narrowed somewhat to 450 basis points and Spanish bluechip shares moderated their fall to 0.76 percent.

Banks have until the end of the year to move their holdings of repossessed property into asset management firms for a fire sale, Economy Minister Luis de Guindos told a news conference. All banks must do this, he said.

A Spanish government source, however, later said that banks able to cover by themselves losses on their toxic property assets will not be forced to remove them from their books while it will be compulsory for those receiving public help.—Reuters



MG6 cars sit on the production line at the MG Longbridge factory in Birmingham, central England on 13 April, 2011.—REUTERS

and the mood may darken even further as news that the economy slipped into recession came out after its poll was conducted.

"It's all a bit grim - it's stagflation Britain," said RBS economist Ross Walker, referring to a 1970s term combining economic growth stagnation with inflation.

Britain's manufacturers raised prices more than expected in April despite lower input costs, official data showed, increasing the risk that consumer price inflation may not fall as fast as the central bank hopes.—Reuters

China, Switzerland make further progress in FTA talks

BEIJING, 12 May—China and Switzerland have made "great progress" in the fifth round of bilateral talks on a possible Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Ministry of Commerce said Friday.

During the 8-10 May talk, the two countries exchanged views on topics of tax cuts, service trade, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical trade barriers and intellectual property rights, reaching a series of agreements on the issues, the ministry said.

China and Switzerland formally launched bilateral FTA talks in January, with the aim of promoting economic development and closer ties between the two countries. Trade between the two countries totaled 30.9 billion US dollars in 2011, up 54 percent from a year earlier.

Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1220)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1220) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-5-2012 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 CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (303)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (303) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-5-2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Flight diverted, unruly passenger restrained

BOSTON, 12 May—A flight from Portland, Maine, to Philadelphia made an emergency landing at Boston's Logan International Airport on Thursday after a male passenger allegedly attempted to open the cabin door, authorities said.

Logan spokesman Phil Orlandella said there were "reports of an unruly male passenger" on Air Wisconsin Flight 3801, which had 50 passengers and three crew members aboard. The man was restrained by crew and

fellow passengers and the flight landed safely. Massachusetts state police boarded the plane on the Logan tarmac and took the man into custody.

In a statement, police identified the suspect as Michael J Ensalcio, 40, of Mooreville, North Carolina. "The suspect is currently being interviewed by State Police and TSA officials," the statement said. "He is currently charged with interfering with a flight crew."—Reuters

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:			
Srl No.	Tender No	Description	Qty
1.	12(T)4/MR(ML)	DD 1100 HP Sifang Locomotive	160 Nos
	2012-2013	Solid Wheel	

Closing Date & Time - 13.7.2012 (Friday)(12:00)Hours

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 14.5.2012 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994,

China says inflation eases slightly in April

SHANGHAI, 12 May—China said on Friday that inflation slowed in April, easing worries of resurgent prices and giving room to loosen monetary policy to boost slowing growth in the world's second largest economy. The country's consumer price index (CPI) rose by 3.4 percent year on year in April compared with 3.6 percent in March, the National Bureau of Statistics said, a slowdown analysts said was driven by moderating food prices.

now. So overall, we can say that inflationary pressure this year is not big," she said.

The April figure was exactly in line with market expectations, according to a poll of 15 economists by Dow Jones Newswires. The key food component of CPI rose 7.0 percent year on year in April — contributing more than two percentage points to overall inflation — but eased from a 7.5 percent rise in March, the bureau said.

China has set itself the target of keeping annual

to ease monetary policy, including cuts in reserves for banks, to combat slower economic growth.

"The top issue for China's economy is not inflation, but rather how to maintain economic growth," Liao Qun, China economist for Citic Bank International in Hong Kong, told AFP. "If economic data... turn out to be weaker than expected, it will likely prompt China to take further easing measures through cuts in banks' reserve requirements," he said. China's economy grew 8.1 percent in the first quarter of 2012, its slowest pace in nearly three years.

Internet



Women shop for fruit at a stall in Shanghai on 11 May, 2012. China said Friday that inflation slowed in April, easing worries of resurgent prices and giving room to loosen monetary policy to boost slowing growth in the world's second largest economy. —INTERNET

"Inflation is on a downward trend," Ren Xianfang, an economist at IHS Global Insight in Beijing, told AFP. "As to food prices, which have a big impact on CPI, supply is quite sufficient right

inflation within four percent this year, fearing that surging prices carry the potential to cause social unrest as citizens grumble about paying more.

But easing inflation should give China more room

1,500 children in Nigeria village suffer lead-poisoning

An employee of the French non-governmental Organization Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Border - MSF) gives medicine to a child suffering from lead poisoning in 2010. International medical aid group Doctors Without Borders said on Thursday that 1,500 children in a mining village in northwest Nigeria have suffered lead-poisoning and are not receiving care.

INTERNET

ABUJA, 12 May—International medical aid group Doctors Without Borders said on Thursday that 1,500 children in a mining village in northwest Nigeria have suffered lead-poisoning and are not receiving care. "1,500 children are currently lead-poisoned but are not receiving treatment because it is impossible to deliver effective treatment while they still live in contaminated homes," the group's head of mission in Nigeria, Ivan Gayton, said.

Those children that need treatment are mostly in Bajega Village in Zamfara State, he said. "There are 4,000 children who have been exposed. 2,500

are under treatment because their villages have been remediated," he told reporters in Abuja at the end of a two-day international conference on ending the lead poisoning epidemic.

Geneva-based Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres) spends over \$5 million yearly to treat people affected by lead poisoning which has killed more than 400 children in northern Nigeria since 2010, Gayton earlier told AFP.

The Abuja conference was jointly organised by the medical aid group, the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and the health ministry.

"The expertise that is here today has shown that it is possible to do the medical treatment. It is possible to do the environmental remediation and it is possible to do safer mining," said Gayton, a Canadian. "We need not die in search of livelihood. It can be done safely." Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a statement that lead poisoning in Zamfara was one of the "worst such crises in modern history." The deaths, affecting children working in artisanal gold mines and those living in surrounding communities, arose from an unusually high concentration of lead in the region's soil, HRW said.—Internet

Germany approves expansion of EU anti-piracy mission

BERLIN, 12 May—The German parliament on Thursday gave final approval to an extension of the European Union's anti-piracy operation off the Horn of Africa to include targeting equipment stored on Somali beaches.

Lawmakers gave the green light to the expanded mission, with a majority from the ruling centre-right coalition parties carrying the vote against strong resistance from the opposition Social Democrats and the Greens after a heated debate.

The EU's Operation Atalanta has deployed between five and 10 warships

off the Somali coast since 2008 to escort humanitarian aid shipments and thwart pirate raids on commercial vessels using vital shipping lanes. EU

foreign ministers in March agreed to extend the mission until December 2014 and expand "the force's area of operations to include Somali

coastal territory as well as its territorial and internal waters".

Warships or helicopters would be permitted to fire at fuel barrels, boats, trucks or other equipment stowed away on beaches.

The German mandate, which runs until 31 May 2013, limits such strikes to an area two kilometres (1.2 miles) in from the coastline and says German troops will only be permitted to go on land in cases of emergency.

Opposition parties voted against the bill, saying it amounted to irresponsible overreach for German forces.

Internet



Frigate "Luebeck" returns from its "Atalanta" mission at the Horn of Africa in April 2012. —INTERNET

Alligator rams kayak, knocks dog in water



A Florida man out kayaking on a lake said an alligator rammed his boat and hit him in the arm, sending his girlfriend's dog plunging into the water.

Thomas Swiader said he

and the Yorkie, Buffy, were on Triple Lake in Casselberry with a line in the water last Wednesday when the alligator rammed the boat, "whacked" him in the arm and sent the small dog

splashing into the lake, WFTV, Orlando, Fla., reported.

"I looked over and she was swimming in the water, so just immediately I grabbed the leash, pulled her back to me and threw her in the kayak and at that time she was pretty frightened," Swiader said.

Swiader said the dog was not injured.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officials said the alligator may have been aggressive because it is mating season.

Barracuda jumps onto boat

The captain of a fishing charter boat in Florida said he and his cameraman were shocked when a 40-pound barracuda jumped onto the boat.

Kevin Faver of St Augustine said he was out on his boat with Bill Pollackov, who serves as producer and videographer for Faver's TV series, "Tails from the Outdoors Fishing Show," when he got a bite from a fish near the ocean floor, *The St Augustine Record* reported.

"I was bottom fishing so I had the drag locked down ... It peeled off line, went

about 30 feet out and turned. I thought it was a kingfish or cobia," Faver said.

"What's weird is that the rod was still bent like he was running out, but I guess he has so much slack in the line from running back at us."

Faver said he and Pollackov were then confronted with "5 feet of flying teeth" headed straight toward the captain's head.

The captain said he dodged the fish and was able to throw it back off the boat with a gaff hook.

Stevie Wonder's alleged extortionists arrested

LONDON, 12 May—Two people, who tried to extort money from singer Stevie Wonder, have been arrested in the United States.

According to officials in Los Angeles, Alpha Lorenzo



Singer Stevie Wonder

Walker and his girlfriend Tamara Eileen Diaz threatened to reveal "embarrassing information" about the star.

Both deny the

accusations and are in custody awaiting a preliminary hearing on 16 May.

A judge will decide if there is enough evidence for the two to stand trial.

LA district attorney spokeswoman Jane Robison said that Walker contacted Wonder's representatives and claimed to have embarrassing information about the musician.

Detectives organised a sting operation and the pair were arrested, she said.

Officials said Walker had identified himself as a relative of Stevie Wonder.

Internet

Cohen, Russell leave 'Django' cast

NEW ORLEANS, 12 May—Sacha Baron Cohen and Kurt Russell have dropped out of Quentin Tarantino's 19th century-set American drama, "Django Unchained."

The New Orleans Times-Picayune said the actors were to play small roles in the film, but, as of this week, are no longer attached to the project, which is being shot in New Orleans through June.

Cohen said on Howard Stern's satellite radio show the "Django" shooting conflicted with his publicity duties for his movie, "The Dictator."

No reason has been reported for Russell's exit, the *Times-Picayune* said.

The news comes after the departures of cast members Kevin Costner and Joseph Gordon-Levitt were confirmed. "Django Unchained" stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Kerry Washington and Samuel L. Jackson. It is set for a Christmas release.

Tarantino's other films include "Reservoir Dogs," "Pulp Fiction," "Jackie Brown," "Kill Bill" and "Inglourious Basterds."—Internet

Residents startled by Army drill

A US Army spokesman said the sounds of helicopters and explosions coming from a Miami hotel were part of an urban training exercise.

Residents of the Coconut Grove neighbourhood reported being awakened by the sound of helicopters around 1:45 am and seeing soldiers

rappelling down from the vehicles to the Grand Bay Hotel, where they set off flares and smoke bombs, *The Miami Herald* reported.

Maj Michael Burns, a US Army spokesman, said the "realistic urban training" exercise was organized by the US Special Operations Command and involved

about 100 military personnel, three military helicopters and simulated gunfire and explosions.

"They have to train in a realistic environment," Burns said. "We didn't use any real bullets." Burns said Miami police helped oversee the exercise to ensure the safety of the public.

News Album

Woman surprised by lotto ticket ruling



An Arkansas woman who pulled a \$1 million lottery ticket from the trash said she was surprised a judge ruled she isn't entitled to the winnings.

Sharon Jones, who found the ticket last, worth \$680,000 after taxes, in the

trash at a convenience store in Beebe last July, told NBC's "Today" show she was shocked last week when a judge ruled in favour of Sharon Duncan, the woman who tossed the ticket after a machine at the store told her it was not a winner.

Jones and her attorney, Jimmy Simpson, say they plan to appeal the decision, NBC News reported.

"I was surprised [at the ruling], but I think that everything will be fine," Jones said. "[The judge] basically ruled that she abandoned the paper the ticket is, but that

she did not abandon the claim to it that she gained with her purchase of the \$20 ticket," Simpson said.

Jones said she and her husband are both unemployed and have already spent \$190,000 of the prize money. She said they would not be able to immediately repay the money.

"There's no way that I can figure it out right now, but I'd have to, I guess, if it came down to it," Jones said.

An attorney representing Duncan and the convenience store declined to comment, NBC said.

Aniston to be single again?



Actress Jennifer Aniston

LOS ANGELES, 12 May—Actress Jennifer Aniston may be dumped again as her boyfriend Justin Theroux is bored of the romance and is keen to move on.

Theroux reportedly felt pressure to leave New York and move into Aniston's Los Angeles mansion, but now he craves for his old lifestyle.

"Even though Justin was blown away by

Aniston's charm, sexiness and power, he now feels they aren't compatible. The bloom is off the rose. He wants his old home, his old love Heidi Bivens and his old life back," *usmagazine.com* quoted a source as saying.

"Justin and Heidi still talk, and they are very supportive of each other. Justin feels she's handled herself with grace, never becoming nasty or vindictive though it was a total shock when he began seeing Aniston behind her back while they were still living together," the source added.

"Justin is full of remorse and regret which he has told Heidi. Justin wants a family. But he doesn't want it with Aniston," the source said.

Internet

Smulders to marry in September

LOS ANGELES, 12 May—"The Avengers" actress Cobie Smulders, who got engaged more than three years ago, has finally set a wedding date.

The actress reveals that she will wed actor Taran Killam in September this year.

"We finally have time to sit down and plan this wedding," *femalefirst.co.uk* quoted Smulders as saying.

Killam proposed to Smulders in 2008 and the couple welcomed daughter Shaelyn Cado in May 2009.

Internet



"The Avengers" actress Cobie Smulders,

Serena Williams' rap track surfaces online

WASHINGTON, 12 May—It seems that tennis champ Serena Williams is ready to take a shot at the world of hip-hop music.

The 30-year-old had hit Baltimore Ravens lineman Bryant McKinnie's studio in Florida to record some songs last year and TMZ.com has revealed a minute-long sample, doing the rounds on Internet, on Friday.

It turns out that the former No 1 player can handle a bass line as well as she can a



Tennis champ Serena Williams

baseline. The lyrics of the rap even have reference to balls and tennis racket.

"I ball hard no tennis

racket/I can't see these haters through my Gucci glasses/I make hits like batting practice—they be like Serena, is you really rapping? That's me, thanks for listening," she sings in the track.

"Schooling these rappers, they should pay tuition.

"I put the track up like a frozen pizza. Beats so crazy it might blow your speakers," she raps. She even gives her sister Venus a little shoutout.

Internet

Bayern out to down Dortmund as Chelsea loom



Bayern Munich's Arjen Robben (R) and David Alaba during a training session on 11 May. Bayern are out to break their losing streak to German champions Borussia Dortmund in Saturday's domestic cup final as their Champions League showdown with Chelsea looms.

INTERNET

MUNICH, 12 May—Bayern Munich are out to break their losing streak to German champions Borussia Dortmund in Saturday's domestic cup final as their Champions League showdown with Chelsea looms.

Dortmund have beaten Bayern both home and away for the last two seasons on their way to claiming back-to-back league titles and Borussia

are bidding to win the league and cup double for the first time in their 103-year history.

The last of Dortmund's two previous German cups wins was back in 1989, while Bayern came to Berlin's Olympic Stadium chasing their 16th cup title.

The Bavarians host the Champions League final against Chelsea at their own Allianz Arena stadium on Saturday 19 May and while

they could be forgiven for being distracted, goalkeeper Manuel Neuer insists all eyes are on Berlin.

"All we're rethinking about is this final. We've forgotten the other matches," he insisted. "Obviously, there are a lot of reports about the Champions League final, but everyone saw how overjoyed we were in Moenchengladbach when we made it to the cup final. 'We're fired up for the match and want to win the trophy.' Neuer played a key role in the cup semi-final victory at Gladbach in March with a crucial save in the penalty shoot-out and is determined to hoist the golden trophy again having captained Schalke to their 2011 cup victory.

Lifting the German cup would also be a perfect foundation for the Champions League final the week after, says Germany's first-choice goalkeeper. "We've had a good season as a team, but it'll only be a superb season if we win trophies," said Neuer.

Internet

End of an era at AC Milan as veterans move on

MILAN, 12 May—Filippo Inzaghi, Gennaro Gattuso and Alessandro Nesta will end their AC Milan careers against Novara on Sunday as the end of an era is all but completed at the San Siro. After those three are gone, only Clarence Seedorf and Massimo Ambrosini will remain from the last great Milan side that lifted the Champions League in 2007.

Inzaghi is particularly

loved because he scored a brace in that final in Athens as Milan defeated Liverpool 2-1 to avenge their penalty shoot-out final defeat by the same opponents two years before. Already, there was a feeling that the side were coming to the end of their powers but certain figures held on.

That is no longer the case, though, with Inzaghi, 38, set for retirement, Nesta, 36,

heading probably to the United States, and Gattuso, 34, facing an uncertain future.

Club captain Ambrosini, 34, is staying on for another year but the fate of 36-year-old Seedorf has yet to be confirmed. It is the departure of iconic figure Inzaghi that will truly drill home the reality that Milan have moved on from that era. They won the Champions League in 2003 and 2007, while reaching the final in 2005, as well as winning the league title in 2004.

"The reality surpassed our most beautiful dreams," said Inzaghi in a parting note to Milan's fans. "Two goals against Liverpool, two years after Istanbul (where they lost the final), the seventh Champions League. Destiny gave us something we didn't even dare hope for."

It was one of the great Milan teams but all good things must come to an end.

Already the likes of defenders Cafu and Paolo Maldini, as well as coach Carlo Ancelotti, had gone, while Andrea Pirlo left last summer.

Internet



AC Milan's forward Filippo Inzaghi, seen here celebrating scoring a goal against Real Madrid during a Champions League match in 2010, at San Siro stadium in Milan. Inzaghi, Gennaro Gattuso and Alessandro Nesta will end their AC Milan careers against Novara on Sunday as the end of an era is all but completed at the San Siro.—INTERNET

Chelsea pushing defensive pair hard to be fit for final

LONDON, 12 May—Chelsea are still sweating on the fitness of central defenders David Luiz and Gary Cahill for next week's Champions League final against Bayern Munich. Both players have been sidelined by hamstring injuries in recent weeks and will again be missing for the club's final Premier League fixture of the season at home to relegated Blackburn Rovers on Sunday. "We are trying our hardest to have them in the group training next week," interim coach Roberto Di Matteo told reporters on Friday.

"They have been out for three or four weeks so it is not like three months and with the suspensions we have, we have to push them as hard as we can." Di Matteo is desperate to have Brazil international David Luiz and England defender Cahill available for next Saturday's final in Munich because fellow centre halves John Terry and Branislav Ivanovic are banned. Chelsea were without John Obi Mikel (knee problem) for Tuesday's 4-1 defeat at Liverpool, the team they beat 2-1 in last Saturday's FA Cup final at Wembley, but Di Matteo expects the Nigeria midfielder to be fit to take on Bayern.

The London club, who are certain to finish sixth in the Premier League, also have midfielders Raul Meireles and Ramires suspended for the



Chelsea's David Luiz (R) challenges Tottenham Hotspur's Emmanuel Adebayor (L).—REUTERS

Champions League final and will take the chance to shuffle their pack of players against Blackburn. "My team selection is going to be a mix, one or two youngsters and some of the other guys that need a game," said Di Matteo. "We have to find a balance. There are also going to be players in the team who are going to be involved next Saturday."—Reuters

McIlroy misses Players cut, Tiger survives

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, 12 May—World number one Rory McIlroy missed the cut at the Players Championship after shooting a four-over-par 76 in Friday's second round which ended with a trio of Americans sharing the lead.

Zach Johnson, Kevin Na and Matt Kuchar were knotted at eight-under 136, a shot clear of compatriot Harris



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy looks on as his shot on the 16th hole goes into the water during the second round of the Players Championship PGA golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida on 11 May, 2012.—REUTERS

English. But with five players sitting a further stroke adrift and the course likely to get tougher over the weekend, the event widely known as golf's unofficial fifth major remains wide open.

One player who will not be able to make a move on Saturday is McIlroy, who has had a miserable record at the TPC Sawgrass course where he also missed the cut in his previous two appearances at the venue before skipping the event last year.

The Northern Irishman, who had not missed a cut since last year's Wells Fargo Championship, carded five bogeys and one birdie on Friday for a two-day total of 148. "There is something about this place I just can't get to grips with," McIlroy told reporters. "I just need to try and get the hang of this golf course somehow, it's just—I find it pretty difficult but it's just one of those weeks."—Internet

Berbatov 'seeking club outside England'



Dimitar Berbatov leaves the pitch with the match ball after scoring a hat trick for Manchester United against Wigan Athletic at Old Trafford in December. The Bulgarian striker will be seeking to join a team outside England when he leaves Old Trafford at the end of the season, his agent Emil Danchev says.

INTERNET

MANCHESTER, 12 May—Manchester United's Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov will be seeking to join a team outside England when he leaves his current club at the end of the season, his agent Emil Danchev said Friday.

"Dimitar does not want

to play for another club in England," Danchev told the sports website goal.com. "He would like to try a new challenge in another league. It has been a frustrating season and now he just wants to play football," he added.

The 31-year-old striker lost his prime spot on United's squad earlier this season, making just 12 appearances in the English Premier League, and manager Sir Alex Ferguson has now made him available for transfer, goal.com reported.

The website predicted a possible return to Germany, where Berbatov played for Bayer Leverkusen, with top clubs such as Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund reportedly expressing interest in the former Bulgarian international.

Internet



India's Viswanathan Anand takes on Israel's Boris Gelfand for the first world chess crown to be decided in Moscow since intrigue and politics rocked the sport at the height of the Cold War. Russia is hosting the epic 12-match series at the State Tretyakov Gallery.

INTERNET

International Sports

Phelps fall to hometown hero at Charlotte UltraSwim

SYDNEY, 12 May—Michael Phelps outraced Ryan Lochte in the 200-meter freestyle at the Charlotte UltraSwim but both US favourites for the London Olympics lost out to hometown hero Ricky Berens.

Berens won in 1min, 47.32secs with Phelps second in 1:48.01 and Lochte sixth in 1:49.70 in a sign that each swimmer was on a different

training schedule ahead of the Olympics and the US Olympic trials next month at Omaha, Nebraska.

"We're all doing different training," Phelps said. "That's how (Lochte) has always done it. I'm sure that's what he's going to do this year. He's somebody who's a very tough racer and at the right time, he'll be there when it counts." Lochte wore older-style briefs



Michael Phelps at the 2012 Charlotte UltraSwim Grand Prix on 11 May.

INTERNET

rather than a more modern competition suit such as the one used by Phelps, whose

only other event at Charlotte will be the 200 butterfly.

"None of this is going to matter," said Lochte's coach, Gregg Troy. "No one is going to care what happened in Charlotte in another month and a half." Lochte will return to training in Florida next week, while Phelps spends much of his time in Colorado in high-altitude training and fitness conditioning.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**(13-5-12 09:30 am ~
14-5-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Buddha's Noble Legacy
- * News
- * Chaungtha Beach Resort
- * News
- * Owner of the Crown
- * Good-Hearted Kyar Nyo Thwe (Part - II)
- * News
- * A Mirror reflecting Rakhine Architecture (Shitthaung Stupa)
- * News
- * MI People's
- * Celebrities "Wine Su Khine Thein"
- * News
- * Living Myanmar
- * Glazed Ceramics
- * News
- * Products Of Myanmar (Stone of the Heavens)
- * News
- * World Autism
- * Awareness Day 2012
- * Myanmar Movie
- * "Glass Marble"

MYANMAR TV

(13-5-2012)(Sunday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:35 am
- 4. International News
- 11:00 am
- 5. Martial Song
- 11:15 am
- 6. TV Drama Series
- 12:15 pm
- 7. How It's Works
- 12:40 pm
- 8. Myanmar Movies
- 4:05 pm
- 9. Songs Of National Races
- 4:45 pm
- 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 4:55 pm
- 11. Documentary
- 7:00 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. TV Drama Series

United's Hernandez picked for Mexico World Cup qualifiers

MEXICO CITY, 12 May—Mexico striker Javier Hernandez is among eight foreign-based players called up on Friday for next month's CONCACAF World Cup qualifiers against Guyana and El Salvador.

Hernandez's inclusion comes two days after Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson refused permission for 'Chicharito' to play at the London Olympics which starts in July.

Ferguson said Hernandez needed a rest before starting pre-season training for the 2012/13 Premier League campaign having not had a proper holiday for three years.

Mexico host Guyana on June 8 and visit El Salvador four days later in the third phase of the Concacaf qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil. Costa Rica make up Group B.

Mexico will play warm-up friendlies against Wales on 27 May, Bosnia on 31 May and Brazil on 3 June.

The other exiles called

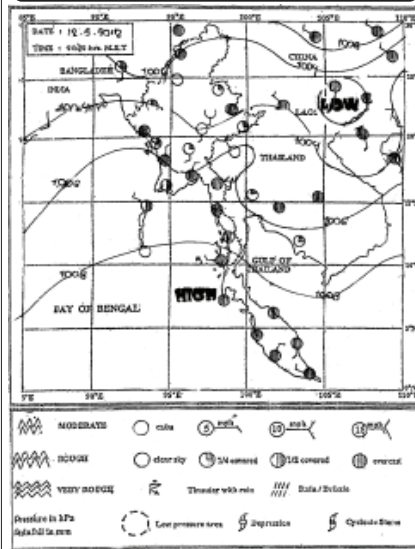
up are goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa (Ajaccio), defenders Rafael Marquez (New York Red Bulls), Hector Moreno (Espanyol) and Francisco Rodriguez (VfB Stuttgart), midfielders Andres Guardado (Deportivo Coruna) and Pablo Barrera (Real Zaragoza) and forward Giovanni Dos Santos (Tottenham Hotspur).

Reuters



Manchester United's Javier Hernandez celebrates his goal against Bolton Wanderers during their English Premier League soccer match in Bolton, England on 10 September, 2011.

REUTERS

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**Weather forecast for 13th May, 2012**

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		Forecast	Percent
		Maximum	Minimum		
1	Kachin	30/100	23/73	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	35/95	20/68	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	30/100	24/75	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chin	23/73	14/57	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	29/102	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	4/109	30/86	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	25/77	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	30/100	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
9	Magway	41/106	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	42/108	30/86	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	35/95	25/77	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	30/102	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
13	Rakhine	34/93	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	28/82	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	33/91	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	34/93	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	30/100	26/79	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Myanmar	41/106	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	30/102	26/79	Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	42/108	30/86	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Tanintharyi Region, fairly widespread in Kayah and Mon States, isolated in Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, Rakhine State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (6°C) above May average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Regions, Eastern Shan, Southern Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and below May average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chit (42°C), Kalywa, Monywa, Nyaung-U and Mawla (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (0.93 inches), Bala (1.73 inches), Chit (1.61 inches), Thabeik (1.57 inches), Gwa (0.61 inch) and Bagan (0.47 inch).

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

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

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

Answers for Yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



Azarenka to meet Serena in Madrid Open final

MADRID, 12 May—Victoria Azarenka and Serena Williams will square off for the Madrid Open title after the current and former world number ones swept into the final with a minimum of fuss on Saturday.

Australian Open champion Azarenka took a step closer to a fifth title of 2012 when she dispatched Agnieszka Radwanska 6-2 6-4, before Williams, seeded ninth at the premier event in the Spanish capital, crushed Czech qualifier Lucie Hradecka 7-6 6-0.

Belarusian Azarenka has now beaten third-ranked Pole Radwanska six times in six meetings this year and rarely looked troubled as she seeks to improve on her runners-up finish last year to Petra Kvitova. She battered 29 winners on the blue clay of the Manolo Santana show court, each accompanied by a trademark shriek of effort, before reflecting on her 6-1 losing record against Williams, who last topped the rankings in October 2010. "I was much younger and just coming on the tour (for many of our matches) but I have always been competitive against her and she is one of the toughest opponents to play against," Azarenka told a news conference.

"It's going to be a different story this time," the 22-year-old, who was beaten 6-1 7-6 by Williams in the U.S. Open third round last year, added. "We had a very good match last year at the U.S. Open so I can take some of the positive things out of that and it's going to be the first time I play her on clay so we'll see." —Reuters

Yesagyo produces high rate of gram

YESAGYO, 12 May—A total of 24500 acres of land has been put under gram in 2011-2012 season in Yesagyo Township of Mandalay Region.

Due to concerted efforts of the local farmers and favourable weather, gram produces over 500,000 baskets of gram. Its production distinctly is higher than that of previous year.

This year, price of gram sets K 17000 per basket though its production rose. Last year, gram got price at K 23000 per basket. However, this year's gram is marketable, according to gram grower U Aung Win of Sitha Village. —Kyemon



UNIFORMS PROVIDED: A ceremony to provide uniforms to staff members was held at Township General Administration Department in Shwepyithar Township on 4 May. Township Administrator U Aung Moe Oo presents 54 sets of uniforms to 54 staff members through Deputy Head of Department U Myo Thu and Office Superintendent U Win Ni. —MYANMA ALIN



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint calls on Speaker of House of Councillors, Speaker of House of Representatives

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint left Kyoto at 9:30 am and arrived at Tokyo at 11.50 am on 8 May by Nozomi Bullet Train.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker met former Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tajima at Hotel New Otani at 2 pm. The delegation called on Speaker of House of Councillors of Japan Mr Hirata Kenji at the upper house at 3 pm. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker explained that Myanmar has Pyidaungsu Hluttaw which is the combination of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and is made up of representatives from various national races, religions and political parties and independent ones. Despite less parliamentary democratic experiences, Myanmar Hluttaw could keep abreast of well-established parliaments of other countries in discharging duties, he said. He then frankly discussed matters related to strengthening mutual relations between the two parliaments and shared parliamentary experiences.

The speaker and party observed the Hall of the Upper House of Japan. The delegation met Speaker of House of Representatives of Japan Mr Yokomichi at the lower house at 4 pm and discussed matters related to flourishing of democracy in accord with the constitution in Myanmar and parliamentary affairs.

National Diet in Japan was formed by 245 lawmakers of the upper house and 480 lawmakers of the lower house.

The candidate for the upper house must be at least 30 years old and its term is six years.

The candidate for the lower house must be at least 25 years old and its term is four years.

Mr Hirata Kenji hosted dinner to Myanmar delegation at his residence.—MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint holds talks with Speaker of House of Councillors of Japan Mr Hirata Kenji.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw arrives Osaka of Japan



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and party pose for documentary photo at Todai Ji Temple in Nara, Japan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—A goodwill delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint comprised Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Education, Health and Culture Committee Dr Khin Shwe, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw ASEAN Social and Cultural Community Committee U Win Maung, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Mines and Natural Resources Committee U Nay Win Tun and officials, arrived at the Hanoi International Airport of Vietnam at 9.30 pm local standard time on 5 May. The delegation left Yangon late in the evening under Japan-Myanmar parliamentary relations programme.

The delegation was welcomed by Vice-Chairman of International Relations Committee of Vietnamese National Assembly Mr Ha Huy Thong and Deputy Director of International Relations Department Mr Pham Hoaui Hoi, Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam U Thet Oo, Military Attaché Col Win Hlaing and officials.

The delegation exchanged views on intra-parliamentary affairs at lounge of the airport.

The delegation arrived at Kansai International Airport of Osaka of Japan at 6.40 am the next day.

The speaker and party were welcomed by Director-General of Upper House of Japan Mr Hanatani and officials and Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin and officials.

(See page 9)

Written exam result for NPE junior reporter posts announced

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India's Viswanathan Anand takes on Israel's Boris Gelfand for the first world chess crown to be decided in Moscow. Russia is hosting the epic 12-match series at the State Tretyakov Gallery.

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Alligator rams kayak, knocks dog in water



PAGE 13

Bayern out to down Dortmund as Chelsea loom



PAGE 14

United's Hernandez picked for Mexico World Cup qualifiers



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