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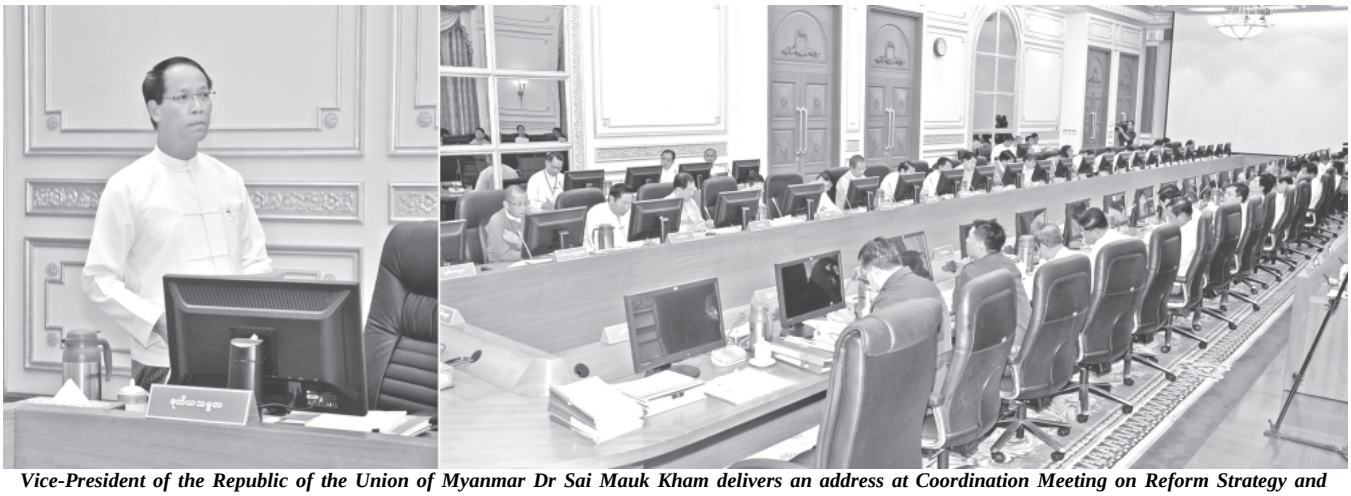
Our Three Main National Causes * Non-disintegration of the Union * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Reform, a combination of National Plan approved by Hluttaw and Physical Development Plan, needs to be People-Centred Development Reform which could satisfy demands of people



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at Coordination Meeting on Reform Strategy and Investment at President Office in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed Coordination Meeting on Reform Strategy and Investment at the President Office, here, this morning.

The meeting was attended by Union ministers, Region and State Chief ministers, chairmen of self-administered division/zones and officials.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said in his address that effective reform strategy for development of the country would be discussed in the first session of the meeting and Union ministers, Region and State Chief ministers, and chairmen of self-administered division/zones would discuss investment in the second session.

Reform includes political reform, administration reform, economic reform, social reform and etc., he said. Those reforms must be initiated fast and mindsets must be changed, he urged.

The second phase of reform strategy made clear by the President yesterday was the thing that the people desire and must be implemented by drafting sector-wise and region-wise pragmatic plans. He said the Union ministers are to report a drafted plan to the cabinet and seek guidance of the President after assessing which reform and how it should be instituted; the reform, a combination of National Plan approved by the Hluttaw and Physical Development Plan, needs to be People-Centred Development Reform which could satisfy demands of people; there may be some sectors that need no reform and those should be upgraded in Development Plan; and regarding unfriendly relations between the public and the ministries, offices, and administrations in regions, states, townships and villages, Public Administration Reform is needed and we should consider Management System Development, Policy and Decision Making Process, Transparency Promotion and Good Governance, Organizational Structural Reform, Performance System Improvement, E-government Development, Establishing Public Service Ethics and Code of Conduct, and Integrated Development Plan in carrying out that reform so as to keep abreast of the international community.

As regards Investment and Trade sector that could enhance the country's economy significantly, he urged them to ensure laws, rules and regulations are applicable as in the foreign countries; to make sure the laws, rules and procedures are firm after being practically laid down; to act in the interest of the entire people, not in the interest of a handful of people; to have transparency; and to be flexible with sustainability.

To do so, it is especially important for union ministers and region/state chief ministers to have coordination and transparency. Moreover, it is necessary to acquire land allocations on a priority basis of investments allowed in accord with the land use policy and development plan; to have the amount of materials available and the amount of investments allowed according to the resource-based region; to create conditions to be able to invest in agricultural, livestock, industrial and other products and services according to regional job requirements and the needs for economic development; and to make coordination and discussions between union ministries and regional bodies in every sector such as investment plan.

(See page 8)

Five-goal Dortmund blast Bayern to clinch double

Borussia Dortmund's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the German Cup final on 1 May.

PAGE 14

Federer topples Tipsarevic to reach Madrid final

Swiss Roger Federer serves to Serbian Janko Tipsarevic during their semi-final tennis match of the Madrid Masters.

PAGE 14

Eurotunnel in 65 m-euro bid for SeaFrance

PAGE 12

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (13-5-2012)

Ye	(2.21) inches
Bilin	(1.97) inches
Kyaikkhami	(1.93) inches
Launglon	(1.34) inches

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 14 May, 2012

Help students pursue education with peace of mind

All basic education schools will be opening soon to enter their 2012-2013 academic year. Parents, teachers and students are preparing for the students to pursue their education throughout the year with peace of mind, spending a lot of financial, mental and physical strengths. In doing so, taking care of the students' health is of paramount importance with personal hygiene high on the agenda.

A lack of personal hygiene can have certain social and health ramifications which can spur students to stay away from schools.

Encouraging children to regularly wash their hands will directly impact the school communities and have a significant effect on the wider community. And getting children into the habit of washing their hands after using the toilets and into a regular habit of washing their hands after playing with pets are a simple precaution.

The habit formed in children's hygiene routines early in life should largely help them stay healthy in the future.

But, many schools in rural areas lack safe water supplies, especially in the dry season. Without adequate water and proper sanitation facilities, students are more likely to become ill and to be absent from school.

Drinking water systems at many schools lack water filtration, meaning the water may not be safe to drink. And some schools even lack sufficient water supplies for cleaning, which results in toilets become unsanitary and a threat to children's health.

This being the case, all parents, teachers and students whose contributions are inseparable are to cooperate in ensuring school health facilities, and only then will the students be able to pursue their education with peace of mind.

Union I&C Minister and wife attend consecration and merit-sharing for sixth all-round renovation of Shwephonepwint Pagoda

***Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win attend the ceremony to accomplish sixth all-round renovation task of Shwephonepwint Pagoda.*—MNA**

YANGON, 13 May— Patron of the Leading Committee for All-round Renovation of Shwephonepwint Pagoda Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win attended the ceremony to accomplish sixth all-round renovation task of the pagoda, consecrate the pagoda and share merits gained at Sasana Zawtika Dhammayon on the platform of the pagoda in Pazundaung Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, Chairman of the Leading Committee Managing Director of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint and departmental heads of the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Culture, the chairman and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, the chairman and members of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, officials, wellwishers and guests.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan inspected the diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane of the pagoda and offered flowers and scented water to the pogada.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda.

The Union Minister read the paper on consecration for accomplishment of sixth renovation of the pagoda and sharing merits gained.

Vice-Chairman of the SSMNK Sagaing Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dhammananda administered the Five Precepts. Then, members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

The Union Minister, the region minister, departmental heads and officials donated alms to members of the Sangha.

The Vice-Chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained. After that, the Union Minister and party offered day meals to members of the Sangha.

The sixth all-round renovation of the pagoda and replacement of new diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane started on 1 January 2012 under the advices of the Ovadaçariya Sayadaws and these tasks accomplished on 30 April.

In undertaking the sixth all-round renovation tasks, gold foils were offered to the pagoda and encircled zedies, diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane substituted with new ones, maintenance of main structure of pagoda carried out, eight corner posts substituted, religious buildings renovated, lines of electricity at the pagoda and religious structures inspected and substituted with new ones, slide and lightings, damaged marble slabs substituted, sanitation carried out, the walls of the pagoda and stone inscriptions painted, drains around the pagoda dredged for proper flow of water and public toilets maintained.

New diamond orb and new pennant-shaped vane were fixed at the pagoda through advanced technology.

The size of bowl from the new diamond orb is two times the old one. Therefore, larger number of jewellery can be kept in the new bowl. The new larger pennant-shaped vane can be hung with many items of jewellery. Moreover, the new pennant-shaped vane is installed with ball bearing like that of Shwedagon and Naungdawgyi Pagodas. Thus, the new pennant-shaped vane is in long-term durability.

While the sixth all-round renovation tasks were undertaken, the diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane were substituted with new ones, gold foils offered to the all structures of the pagoda and the platform and religious buildings renovated with the funds of wellwishers.

As part of efforts to ensure convenience of pilgrims in paying homage to the pagodas, the first all-round renovation was carried out in 1990-1991, the second time in 2001-2002, the third time in 2004, the fourth time in 2006-2007, the fifth time in 2008-2009 and the sixth time in 2012. In so doing, maintenance works were undertaken at religious buildings, marble slabs of the platform, installation of power lines and main structure of the pagoda.

MNA

Deputy Attorney-General meets personnel of Mon State Advocate General's Office

YANGON, 13 May— Deputy-Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo of the Union Attorney-General's Office visited the Mon State Advocate General's Office yesterday morning and inspected functions of state, district and township law offices.

In meeting with law officers from the state, districts and townships, the deputy attorney-general underscored the importance of the uprightness of judicial sector, which is the third estate of the country, the giving of equal rights to the people for their desired peace and stability under the umbrella of law, ensuring all are equal before the law and the need for law officers to act in accord with the law without weaknesses and irregularities.

State Advocate-General U Win Kyi explained functions of the office and the state law officer, functions of the office over the year. Then, district and township law officers reported on functions of their respective offices and Director-General U Myint Win and Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo left necessary instructions.

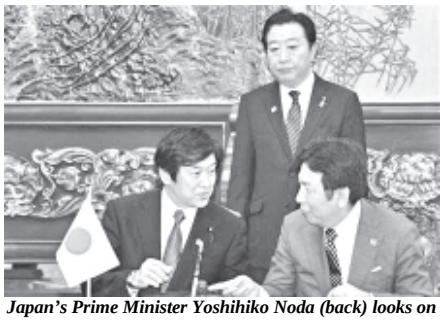
MNA

Drive Safely

OFFICE HANDED OVER: ***A ceremony to hand over new administrative office of Sanpya Theingon Village of Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region was held at the office on 10 May. Township Administrator U Maung Maung accepts documents related to the office handed over by Village Administrator U Tin Hlaing and Construction Committee Patron U Kyaw Swe.***

MYANMA ALIN

East Asian powers agree on trade pact talks



Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda (back) looks on as Japan's Trade Minister Yukio Edano (R) attends a signing ceremony of the fifth trilateral summit among China, South Korea and Japan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on 13 May, 2012.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 13 May— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao urged northeast Asian powers to cooperate more in the face of global economic headwinds, as China, Japan and South Korea agreed at a summit on Sunday to soon launch negotiations on a three-way free trade pact.

The three nations are major traders, and together accounted for 19.6 percent of global gross domestic product and 18.5 percent of exports in 2010, according to a feasibility study of that the governments issued last year on the proposed trade pact.

But they are divided by political distrust, trade barriers and diverging investment policies. "In response to a slow economic recovery and rising trade protectionism around the world, many countries are seeking to strengthen regional economic integration to expand their market share and raise their competitiveness," China's Wen told reporters after talks in Beijing with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak. "Northeast Asia is the most economically vibrant region in the world," Wen said. "The establishment of an FTA will unleash the economic vitality of our region and give a strong boost to economic integration in east Asia."

The three governments plan to counter economic worries and tepid demand from advanced economies by launching formal talks this year for their own free trade agreement (FTA), an idea that has been under discussion for a decade.

"We are pursuing high-level economic cooperation as part of our national strategy," Noda told the *Wall Street Journal* in an interview before the summit. "The Japan-China-Korea FTA is an extremely important piece of it."

The three leaders also agreed to a three-way investment treaty — a stepping stone to the bigger and much more contentious goal of a free trade deal—said *Xinhua*.—*Reuters*

Gunmen kill senior Afghan peace negotiator

KABUL, 13 May— Gunmen shot dead a top Afghan peace negotiator in the capital Kabul on Sunday, police said, dealing a massive blow to the country's attempts to negotiate a peace deal with Taleban insurgents.

Maulvi Arsala Rahmani was one of the most senior members on Afghanistan's High Peace Council, set up by President Hamid Karzai two years ago to open talks with insurgents.

"He (Rahmani) was stuck in heavy traffic when another car beside him opened fire," said General Mohammad Zahir, head of the investigations unit for Kabul police.

Rahmani, a former Taleban minister, was on his way to a meeting with lawmakers and other officials in a government-run media centre in the heavily barricaded diplomatic centre of Kabul.

"His driver did not immediately realise that Rahmani had been killed," police official Zahir told *Reuters*, adding that no one had been arrested in connection with the shooting.

Reuters

Former Taleban minister Maulvi Arsala Rahmani, a senior member of the High Peace Council set up by President Hamid Karzai two years ago to liaise with insurgents, speaks during an interview in Kabul, in this file picture taken on 26 Jan, 2012.
INTERNET

California budget hole deepens to $16 billion

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 May—California's budget deficit will swell to nearly $7 billion greater than expected due to weak tax revenues and slow progress in cutting budgets, Governor Jerry Brown said on Saturday.

Brown said the projected shortfall for the fiscal year ending on 30 June now stood at $16 billion, up from a previous estimate of $9.2 billion made in January.

"We are now facing a $16 billion shortfall, not the $9 billion we thought in January," Brown announced in a video posted on YouTube. "This means we will have to go much further and make cuts far greater than I asked for at the beginning of the year." Brown is due to present on Monday a new budget proposal for the next fiscal year starting in July. In it, he said, he will outline how to eliminate the deficit.

California could receive a windfall from the planned initial public offering of online social media firm Facebook, which is aiming to raise as much as $12 billion when launched next week.

Revenues from Facebook stock options held by people living in California could reach around $2 billion, according to municipal bond analysts who say that the final amount will depend on how the shares trade on the market.—*Reuters*

California Governor Jerry Brown speaks in front of a California flag in Long Beach, California on 14 March, 2012.—INTERNET

US drones kill 21 al-Qaeda militants in Yemen

SANAA, 13 May—US drones raided al-Qaeda convoys in Yemen's southeastern Province of Shabwa and central province of Marib on Saturday evening, killing at least 21 al-Qaeda militants, a security official told *Xinhua*.

The US drone fired about three rockets on the al-Qaeda convoy composed of three pick-up trucks on a desert road in Hareeb area in Shabwa Province, leaving at least seven militants killed, the local security official said on condition of anonymity.

All of the three vehicles were completely destroyed following the air bombing, the official said, adding that local leading members of the Yemen-based al-Qaeda branch believed to be amongst the dead.

A local resident told *Xinhua* anonymously that "just a few hours after an al-Qaeda convoy passed through a mountainous area, we heard powerful explosions that rocked the ground."

"The al-Qaeda militants were planning to attend a meeting with their senior comrades in the area," he said.

At the same time, a US warplane also attacked al-Qaeda hideouts in al-Aeen area in central Shabwa, killing at least six militants, he added. Meanwhile, a security official in Marib Province told *Xinhua* that a US drone hit another al-Qaeda convoy in Husoon area in Marib, killing at least eight al-Qaeda fighters.

Xinhua

A damaged vehicle is seen at the site of an explosion in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar on 12 May, 2012. 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.
XINHUA

Mexico volcano spews huge ash cloud, frightens villagers

The Popocatepetl volcano spews a cloud of ash and steam high into the air in Puebla on 11 May, 2012.
INTERNET

SANTIAGO XALITZINTLA, 13 May— Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano spewed out huge clouds of ash and fiery rock overnight, closing a local airport on Saturday and frightening nearby villagers, already on edge after weeks of increased activity. Popocatepetl, 50 miles southeast of Mexico City, shook with tremors that belched out four large plumes of ash on Friday night and Saturday morning, the National Centre for Disaster Prevention said in a statement on Saturday.

The biggest expulsion shot an ash cloud 2.5 miles into the air and launched glowing rocks more than half a mile from the crater, the statement said. Raul Arambula, a scientist collaborating with the government's disaster centre, said the volcano threw out the most ash and fragments of red-hot rock since authorities raised the alert level last month. "It was spectacular," Arambula said. "Of course, it makes you worry about everyone living nearby."

In Santiago Xalitzintla, a village about 6 miles from the volcano, the loud rumblings sent residents running to the town square during the night.—*Reuters*

Seven injured in blast in Peshawar, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 13 May— At least seven people were injured when a remote-controlled bomb hit a police checkpost in Pakistan's northwest city of Peshawar on Sunday morning, said police.

Three of the injured people were in critical condition, said hospital sources.

Superintendant Police Rural in Peshawar Shafiq Ullah told media that the blast took place at about 10:15 am local time near a checkpost outside a cattle market at the Ring Road of the city.

The bomb was hidden inside a pressure cooker which was planted near the checkpost, said the police officer, adding that an estimated five kilograms of explosives were used in the bomb. The blast destroyed four vehicles nearby apart from wounding seven people and killing several animals, he said.—*Internet*

Egg drop gives hope to endangered frogs

MELBOURNE, 13 May— Australian conservationists say they hope the release of hundreds of frog eggs laid at the Melbourne Zoo can help revive a threatened species.

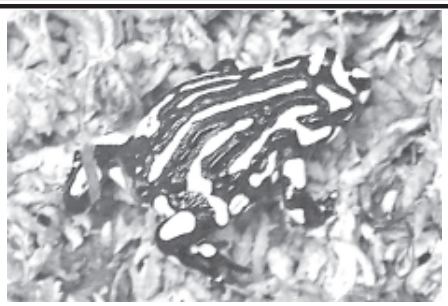
Around 300 eggs of the endangered black and yellow southern corroboree frog will be transported by helicopter to the slopes of Mount Kosciuszko in New South Wales to be released into streams there, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on Friday.

In a recent census of the corroboree frogs, which are only found in the Snowy Mountains region of Kosciuszko National Park, researchers recorded just nine males calling in the wild and found just one clutch of eggs.

"It probably means there are barely any females left in the wild," zoo amphibian keeper Raelene Hobbs said.

The water-borne disease chytrid fungus has decimated the species, she said.

The eggs will be released into water at three carefully selected sites and should hatch within 24 hours, she said.



Corroboree frog, Pseudophryne corroborree.
INTERNET

However, the potential success of introducing eggs to the wild will take years to determine because the frogs only reach sexual maturity at four or five years of age.

"Really, though, we have to release them now because they are going to be extinct in three or four years if we don't," Hobbs said.—*Internet*

UK effort under way to save turtle doves

LONDON, 13 May— Conservationists say they hope to reverse the decline of one of Britain's most threatened birds, the turtle dove, and save the species from possible extinction.

The turtle dove population in Britain fell by more than 90 percent between 1997 and 2010. The chief aim of the three-year project, led by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, is to protect and restore plants the threatened birds feed on in the British countryside.

The birds exist on small seeds from wild plants that traditionally grow among crops, but changes in farming technology have resulted in increasing scarcity of the plants, including vetch, fumitory and clover.

Conservationists say they'll work with farmers to plant the seeds on their lands.

"We know that farms have to be modern and commercially successful," RSPB spokeswoman Heather Griffiths told the BBC. "So we look at how to put in wild seed bird plots on less productive areas of the farm — perhaps corners of fields that are difficult to plow — where they can make a big difference to wildlife without having an impact on the productivity of the farm."

Turtle doves are considered the most likely bird to be extinct in Britain by 2020, conservationists say. "If don't act now, we really could lose them from the United Kingdom completely," Griffiths said.

Internet

For smartphone users: location, location, location

Mobile phone

WASHINGTON, 13 May— More smartphones means more Americans are using the devices to get location information or to share their whereabouts with friends, a study showed on Friday.

A Pew Internet & American Life Project report found 74 percent of US smartphone owners use the device to get real-time location-based information, and 18 percent use a geosocial service to "check in" or share their location.

Over the past year, smartphone ownership among US adults has risen from 35 percent to 46 percent, the study noted.

This means that the overall proportion of US adults who get location-based information has almost doubled over that time period, from 23 percent in May 2011 to 41 percent in February 2012.

The percentage of US adults using geosocial services like Foursquare has likewise risen from four percent in 2011 to 10 percent in 2012.

"We've watched mobile phones become increasingly entwined in people's everyday activities, and location-based services are an important part of that," report author Kathryn Zickuhr said.

"Smartphones' geolocation abilities are clearly popular with their users, who can get the information they want exactly when and where they want it."

The jump in location services has also raised privacy issues and has prompted lawmakers to consider efforts to protect the privacy of people whose location can be tracked.

The Pew report surveyed more than 2,000 adults in 2011 and again in 2012 and is believed to have a margin of error of 2.3 percentage points.

Internet

***The researchers noted crows turned their heads towards the sound of an unfamilar, possible threatening, voice.*— INTERNET**

Language diversity offers key to London's future

LONDON, 13 May— Understanding the linguistic diversity found among London's schoolchildren is a key factor in assuring the city's future as a "global player," researchers say.

A study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council mapped the distribution of languages spoken by London school pupils and combined the language spoken with ethnicity to reveal patterns of educational inequality.

"London's increasing language diversity attracts much interest and debate among public service providers, educationalists and the public," researcher Dick Wiggins of the University of London said.

"Yet little was known about the numbers of people who speak different languages, and the implications of this dimension of population structure and change," he said. Data on the language spoken by students in the home, gathered in the 2008 Annual School Census, was analyzed, researchers said.

"This shows that 60 percent of London pupils record English as their first language and nearly 40 percent a minority language," Wiggins said in an ESRC release on Thursday.

"There are over 40 languages spoken by more than 1,000 pupils."

Bengali, Urdu and Somali are the top languages spoken, he said.

"The language we speak often says more about us than our broad ethnic group; it gives researchers clues about where people come from and their likely socio-economic position, religion and culture," he said. "But having all these cultures represented in one city is also a source of cultural and creative enrichment. We benefit from the cross fertilization of ideas and it means we live in a more dynamic, multi-faceted society. And global cities attract global companies so it's good for inward investment and tourism."

Internet

A herd of Tibetan wild asses graze near Qinghai-Tibet Highway in the Hoh Xil Natural Reserve in northwest China's Qinghai Province, on 11 May, 2012. The number of the rare Tibetan antelopes and Tibetan wild asses has continued to increase in the Hoh Xil Natural Reserve in Qinghai Province, as social awareness and the measures of environmental protection have been enhanced in recent years.
XINHUA

Study: Crows can recognize human voices

VIENNA, 13 May—Crows can learn to recognize familiar human voices and the calls of familiar birds from other species, Austrian researchers say.

Scientists at the University of Vienna say the findings suggest the ability could help crows thrive in urban environments, using vocal cues from human and bird neighbours to find food or be alerted to potential threats.

"In cities crows live alongside jackdaws, magpies and seagulls, and alongside humans," researcher Claudia Wascher told the BBC. "Some of those people might be very nice to the crows and feed them and others might be nasty and chase them away."

The scientists used recordings of human voices and jackdaw calls to test the responses of eight crows in the university's aviary.

They recorded the voices of five people who feed the crows every day and five others who "had never met the crows," Wascher said.

When the recordings were played to the birds, they responded much more when they heard the unfamiliar voices, looking up and turning toward the sound.

"Since humans can be a serious threat for crows," Wascher said, "it's important that if they hear someone unfamiliar, they are on alert."

Although it was widely known that crows are "very intelligent," she said, most studies have focused on their ability to recognize and communicate with their own species.

Internet

Saudi says $100 per barrel great price for oil

ADELAIDE, 13 May— Top crude exporter Saudi Arabia wants an oil price of around $100 a barrel and would like to see global inventories rise before demand picks up in the second half of the year, Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said on Sunday.

International Brent crude settled at $112.26 on Friday, well off a peak of over $128 in March. Brent has mostly traded above $100 since early 2011, keeping fuel costs high and threatening to damage a fragile global economy.

"We want a price around $100, that's what we want," Naimi told reporters ahead of an industry event in Australia. "A $100 price is great."

Saudi Arabia is working at bringing Brent crude prices to that level, he added. The kingdom, OPEC's biggest producer, said it pumped 10.1 million bpd in April, its highest for more than 30 years, as it bid to meet growing demand and curb oil prices.

Prices have stayed high in 2012 due to concern about disruption to global supply from US and European sanctions aimed at hurting Iran's crude export revenues and forcing Teheran to halt its nuclear programme. The US and its allies suspect Iran is developing nuclear weapons, which Teheran denies.

Naimi said last week that producers were pumping enough to deal with the impact of the sanctions on the oil market. He reiterated on Sunday that producers were pumping 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd) to 1.5 million bpd above demand, which is helping to build inventory.

"That should give comfort to consumers," he said.

Inventories are at the equivalent of around 58 days of demand, but Saudi Arabia would like to see stockpiles build more ready for the seasonal increase in fuel consumption in the second half of the year, Naimi said.

"It should be a little bit higher, because you are going into the third and fourth quarter, and demand will be higher as usual," he said.

The International Energy Agency said on Friday that oil prices were likely to stay high, despite a dramatic improvement in world supply and a big build in stocks, due to the tensions between Iran and the West.

Reuters

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi (C) talks to journalist during an OPEC meeting in Vienna, on 14 December, 2011.—INTERNET

People view an exhibition hall at the World Expo in Yeosu, South Korea, on 12 May, 2012. The ocean-themed exposition officially opened to the public earlier Saturday in South Korean southern coastal city of Yeosu.—XINHUA

Heart failure takes bigger toll on men

ATLANTA, 13 May— Men with heart failure report more depression and poorer quality of life than women or men without heart failure, US researchers said.

Dr Rory Hachamovitch of Cleveland Clinic's Heart and Vascular Institute screened more than 3,300 patients who were referred to their medical centre for cardiovascular assessment over a one-year period.

Hachamovitch's research team scored responses to a standardized depression test and administered a quality-of-life questionnaire.

In general, minor and major depression were more frequent in women than in men — 14 percent versus 8.9 percent — and in heart failure patients — 22 percent versus 9.6 percent. Quality-of-life scores were also lower in women and in heart failure patients.

However, the study found the difference in depression and quality-of-life scores was more than double for men with heart failure, compared to all patients.

Women with heart failure also had higher scores than their non-heart failure counterparts, but the difference was significantly less, Hachamovitch said.

The findings were presented at the American Heart Association's Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Scientific Sessions in Atlanta.

Internet

Health Tip: Do I need the meningococcal vaccine?

The meningococcal vaccine helps prevent meningitis and sepsis (infection of the blood), which can lead to severe illness and death. People aged 16 through 21 are most likely to acquire meningococcal disease, the US Centres for Disease Control says.

The agency says you probably should be vaccinated:

* If you live in a dorm, or plan to live in one soon.
* If you are a military recruit.
* If you have a damaged spleen, or the organ has been removed.
* If you have a terminal complement deficiency.
* If you are a microbiologist who is frequently exposed to the bacterium Neisseria meningitidis.
* If you live in or plan to travel to a place where meningococcal infection is common.

Internet

A farmer works in the fields at Xinwei Village of Baise City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 13 May, 2012. Rain in recent days has eased a lingering drought in the city. —XINHUA

World losing battle against TB, cautions WHO

WASHINGTON, 13 May— One third of the world's population is suffering from tuberculosis, and the disease could become incurable if governments fail to act, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned.

Dearth of funding for public health programmes, the sale of inaccurate blood tests and the misuse of drugs, especially in the private health sector, are hampering the fight against the disease and leading to drug resistance, says the organization. Extreme drug-resistant strains of TB have now been found in 70 countries, and doctors in India reported four patients this year, who did not respond to any drugs at all. Doctors in Iran and Italy have also found patients who are apparently resistant to all drugs.

"What we are seeing worldwide is the emergence of strains of the bacillus causing tuberculosis that are resistant to most of the drugs we have available," the *Independent* quoted Mario Raviglione, director of the WHO`s Stop TB campaign, as saying.

The rate of TB deaths had declined drastically – by 40 per cent between 1990 and 2000 – after a worldwide health campaign, which was particularly successful in China. But the emergence of drug-resistant strains threatens to arrest progress and jeopardises the WHO's goal of eradicating the disease as a public health problem by 2050. Drug resistance is increasing as doctors are failing to prescribe the right number of drugs or because patients do not succeed in finishing the course of antibiotics.

In certain cases public clinics run out of stock, but increasingly, according to Dr Raviglione, private sector practitioners are to be blamed.

In India, which has the highest prevalence of TB in the world, 50-70 per cent of patients refer to private doctors when they begin coughing.

"They don`t want to queue in public clinics that are overwhelmed and congested. But the problem with private practitioners is you don`t know who you are meeting and sometimes these people are just incompetent," he said. Instead of prescribing the four-drug, six-month regime recommended by the WHO, private clinics prescribe either too many drugs, "which is a waste of money and increases toxicity", or too few, which, Dr Raviglione said, increases drug resistance. "Many doctors will not adhere to the correct regime of TB treatment. Often TB is not diagnosed: they just suspect it. They give two tuberculosis drugs, and say come back in four weeks; that is very common," Professor Sarman Singh, a microbiologist at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, said. A study of 100 Mumbai private doctors discovered that they prescribed 80 different drug regimes, instead of following WHO standards.

But Professor Singh said that Indians who can manage to stay away from public hospitals will do so.

The sale of blood tests by private companies, an extremely lucrative business, is also a problem, according to the WHO.

"These serological blood tests can give you false positives and false negatives of up to 50 per cent, so you have a one in two chance that your test result will be wrong. These are done in the private sector, not public clinics, because they are not recommended by the WHO. So private physicians charge you 20 dollars for a test which is useless," Dr Raviglione said. The tests are made mostly by Western companies, but are sold to developing countries.

The WHO called for these tests to be withdrawn more than six months ago, and the Indian government recently suggested a ban, but this is only effective in the public health sector; the tests are still being used by private clinics.—*Internet*

Banks in Spain forced to recapitalize

MADRID, 13 May— The Spanish government, with the economy slipping into recession, said its banks need to raise $39 billion to protect Spain's financial system. In response to the announcement, the stock market in Madrid dropped 3 percent. The government had already announced earlier in the week it would take control of 45 percent of Bankia. The British Broadcasting Corp reported on Saturday the European Commission said raising that much capital "would make it harder for individuals and businesses to borrow money, which would constrain the economy."

The commission recently projected Spain's economy would shrink by 1.8 percent in 2012 and by 0.3 percent in 2013. Spain, which has the highest unemployment rate in Europe, was hit hard by the financial downturn, as it had just undergone a building boom when the downturn struck.

At this point, the Bank of Spain estimates 60 percent of the property assets held by Spanish banks — assets worth $237 billion — are in distress, representing either seized property or loans going under, the BBC said.—*Internet*

Romney seeks evangelical votes; opposes gay marriage

LYNCHBURG, (Virginia), 13 May—Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney sought on Saturday to calm fears that his Mormon faith would be an obstacle to evangelical Christian voters, stressing shared conservative values while acknowledging religious differences.

In a speech at conservative Christian Liberty University - where it is taught that Mormonism is a cult - Romney stressed their common goal of service to God and declared his opposition to gay marriage, a position essential for winning the majority of evangelicals in November.

"People of different faiths like yours and mine, sometimes wonder where we can meet in common purpose, when there are so many differences in creed and theology," the presumptive Republican nominee said in a commencement speech, addressing his Mormon faith.

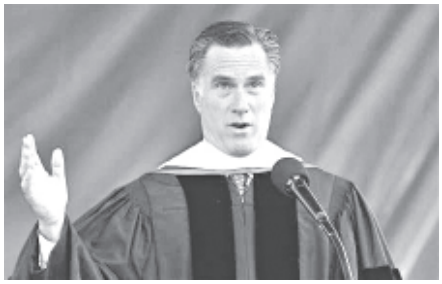
"Surely the answer is that we can meet in service, in shared moral convictions about our nation stemming from a common worldview," said Romney to warm applause. Mormons, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, view themselves as Christians.

Romney went right at the latest hot-button issue, bringing much of the audience to its feet in cheers by declaring: "Marriage is a relationship between one man and one woman."

Many students and parents said that while they are wary of Romney's religion, they would rather he occupy the White House than President Barack Obama who announced his support for same-sex marriage this week.

When Romney was announced as speaker, a shout from the crowd of "Beat Obama!" rang out.

Reuters



***Mitt Romney, US Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts governor, speaks at the Liberty University commencement ceremony in Lynchburg, Virginia 12 May, 2012.* —REUTERS**

Fire bombs target tax office in Italy

MILAN, 13 May—Two fire bombs were thrown at the offices of Italy's tax enforcement agency Equitalia in the port city of Livorno early on Saturday, police said, the latest in a string of attacks on one of crisis-hit Italy's symbols of austerity.

Firemen were called in after one of the two petrol bombs landed on the doorsteps of the Equitalia building, police told *Reuters*. Nobody was hurt.

Public anger against Equitalia has been rising after a wave of highly publicized suicides by small businessmen in Italy, where the government of Mario Monti has increased taxes along with the retirement age to fight spiraling public debt.

Last week, a 54-year-old businessman burst into an Equitalia office and held an official hostage at gunpoint for several hours before surrendering to police.

An anarchist group has also targeted Equitalia with letter bombs in recent months, wounding the director general of the agency in December.

The same anarchist group claimed responsibility for shooting the head of a nuclear engineering group in the leg in the port city of Genoa earlier this week, an act reminiscent of Red Brigade-style political violence that raged across Italy in the 1970s.

Reuters

Seven killed in Japan hotel blaze

TOKYO, 13 May—Seven people died after a fire swept through a Japanese hotel on Sunday morning, according to the local police and fire department.

"Seven people — three men and four women — are dead," said a local police officer, giving no further details with identities yet to be confirmed. The seven were among 10 people taken to hospital after the fire, a fire department official said.

The blaze took place at a hotel in Fukuyama, 600 kilometres (373 miles) west of Tokyo, in Hiroshima prefecture, the officials said.

Three people, including a hotel employee, were injured, *Jiji Press* said. The cause of the fire, now under control, was not known immediately, police said.—*Internet*

***This picture, taken by a local resident in Fukuyama on 13 May, shows firefighters and rescue workers fighting a fire at a four-story hotel. Seven people were dead and three were injured in the fire.*—INTERNET**

***Handout picture released by Prefectura Naval Argentina shows the sunken Argentine vessel "Rio Turbio" after it collided with Paraguayan tug "Ava Payagua" on Parana de las Palmas river off the coast of Zarate port, some 95 km northeast of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on May 12, 2012. Rescuers are working in the area to find seven people —all from the Argentine crew— still missing.* —XINHUA**

Indonesia teams scour ravine for plane's black box

JAKARTA, 13 May—Indonesian special forces and professional climbers scaled down a treacherous ravine on a volcano face on Sunday in search of the missing flight recorder that could explain the deadly crash of a Russian-made jetliner. The *Sukhoi Superjet-100* had 45 people aboard when it crashed into Mount Salak on Wednesday during a flight intended to woo potential Indonesian airline buyers.

All aboard are presumed dead, and helicopters have been ferrying the victims' remains to Jakarta, the capital, for identification since Saturday.

It's unclear what caused the crash about halfway through a planned 50-minute flight, so finding the "black box" recorder is a priority.

Dozens of Indonesian and Russian investigators were searching on Sunday in a ravine near where the plane's scattered wreckage was found on the slopes of the long-dormant volcano, 80 kilometres (50 miles) southwest of Jakarta, top civil aviation official Herry Bakti Gumay said.

Local news station TVOne reported that search teams had spotted a device that might be the black box lodged in a tree near the bottom of the 500-metre-deep (1,500-foot-deep) ravine and were trying to reach it. A landslide was triggered when the *Superjet* slammed into the side of the mountain, and much of the wreckage including the engine and landing gear were covered in rocks and dirt, the station reported.

The *Superjet* is Russia's first new model of passenger jet since the fall of the Soviet Union two decades ago.

Wednesday's ill-fated flight was a demonstration for Indonesian fast-expanding domestic airlines that the manufacturer hoped would buy the jet.

Indonesia has added 36 new passenger and cargo airlines in the past five years and seen growth of 15 to 20 percent in the sector as companies rush to serve an emerging middle class amid the island nation's economic boom.—*Internet*

***An Indonesian helicopter carrying the bodies of victims of Wednesday's plane crash flies through Bogor, in West Java, Indonesia.*—INTERNET**

Rubber tapper shot, wounded in restive S Thailand

BANGKOK, 13 May—A rubber tapper was injured in a shooting at a roadside small retail shop in restive S province of Pattani on Saturday, Bangkok Post online reported.

Witnesses told police that on Saturday morning Paosi Kaelae, 33, was sitting in front of the shop on Pattani-Narathiwat road in Pattani's Yaring when a gunman riding on pillion of a motorcycle opened fire on him. The assailants then fled the scene. Paosi took one bullet in his right arm and was taken to a nearby hospital. Police were investigating the incident.

Also in Pattani on Saturday, suspected militants attacked police security checkpoint in front of Kapor district office, but no one was injured. The attackers sprayed bullets at the policemen on duty at the checkpoint with AK47 assault rifles. Policemen stationed at the checkpoint fired back and the suspected militants fled the scene after about 10 minutes of gunfight. No one was injured in the gun battle.

The violence has continued in the three southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat since 2004, leaving thousands wounded and over 5,000 people dead, including residents, government workers and suspected insurgents.—*Internet*

Ahmadinejad, Putin discuss upcoming nuclear talks between Iran, P5+ 1

TEHERAN, 13 May—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin discussed the upcoming talks between Teheran and the six world powers in Iraq 's capital of Baghdad on 23 May during a phone conversation on Saturday, the semi-official *Fars* news agency reported.

During the phone talk, Ahmadinejad, who is on a provincial visit to Khorassan Razavi Province in northeastern Iran, extended his congratulations to Putin, who was sworn in on Monday as Russian president.

The two presidents also discussed expansion of mutual cooperation between Teheran and Moscow in different technological and economic fields, said the report, without providing further details.

The last round of nuclear talks between Iran and the UN Security Council's five permanent members — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — plus Germany (P5+1) concluded in Turkey's Istanbul in April, with all sides describing the talks as positive and agreeing to meet again in the Iraqi capital on 23 May.

Xinhua

Internet allows virtual Giza tour in 3D

BOSTON, 13 May— Vicarious travellers and students of history can take a virtual stroll through the vast necropolis build by the ancient Egyptians in the Giza Plateau, thanks to a 3D Internet project launched this week.

The interactive recreation, to be found at www.3ds.com/giza3D, was put together by French design company Dassault Systems with material from the archives of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts.

"With a simple domestic computer, the public can now discover the marvels of ancient Egypt," said Dassault employee Mehdi Tayoubi, including the insides of some of the pyramids.

"Users will be able to roam throughout the necropolis, visit the carefully restored tombs, access shafts and corridors, as well as browse all the information on the occupants of each burial chamber, including the dates of discovery and objects collected," added a statement.

The plateau, situated on the outskirts of Cairo, constitutes a vast necropolis spread over two kilometres (over one mile) from east to west and 1.5 kilometres from north to south.

It includes the great pyramids where the kings lay buried, flanked by smaller ones for their queens.

The pyramids in the Giza plateau in the outskirts of Cairo are pictured in 2009. Vicarious travellers and students of history can take a virtual stroll through the vast necropolis build by the ancient Egyptians in the Giza Plateau, thanks to a 3D Internet project launched this week.
INTERNET

"The Giza Plateau is... subject to threats from all sides, whether from rampant urban sprawl, the elements or even vandalism," the statement said. "This raises two seemingly incompatible questions: how can this heritage be preserved, and how can it be shared with as many people as possible?"

Internet

Tourists wade in a pool at a hotel in Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 10 May, 2012. Host city for the Rio + 20 conference, Rio de Janeiro's hotel infrastructure is woefully lacking. With a total of just 33,000 beds for the estimated 50,000-plus visitors expected to flood the city for the 20-22 June summit, the mayor resorted to begging residents to leave town and rent out their apartments.—INTERNET

Biggest UN summit heading toward failure

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 May— The largest-ever United Nations conference, a summit billed as a historic opportunity to build a greener future, appears to be going up in smoke.

US President Barack Obama likely won't be there, and the leaders of Britain and Germany have bowed out. The entire European Parliament delegation has canceled.

And with fewer than six weeks to go until the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development, negotiations to produce a final statement have stalled amid squabbling. Logistical snags, too, threaten to derail the event.

Though the conference's host city, Rio de Janeiro, is also slated to stage mega-events in the 2014 World Cup final match and the 2016 Olympics, its hotel infrastructure is still woefully lacking. With a total of 33,000 beds for the estimated 50,000-plus visitors expected to flood the city for the 20-22 June summit, the mayor has resorted to asking residents to leave town and rent out their apartments to delegates.

Critics contend such stopgap measures will prove too little, too late.

The conference is the follow-up to the UN's 1992 Earth Summit, also held in Rio, which helped put climate change on the world agenda. Twenty years later, climate change remains such a divisive subject that the anniversary conference will focus instead on the more palatable topic of sustainable development: economic growth that meets humans' present needs without devouring resources to derail the future. But even that has proven a hard sell. Talks to hammer out the lion's share of the conference's outcome document have failed. The UN announced on 5 May that a last-ditch round of negotiations has been scheduled after two previous ones yielded a rambling, repetitive text.—*Internet*

Gold! Haiti hopes ore find will spur mining boom

TROU DU NORD, 13 May—Its capital is blighted with earthquake rubble. Its countryside is shorn of trees, chopped down for fuel. And yet, Haiti's land may hold the key to relieving centuries of poverty, disaster and disease: There is gold hidden in its hills — and silver and copper, too.

A flurry of exploratory drilling in the past year has found precious metals worth potentially $20 billion deep below the tropical ridges in the country's northeastern mountains. Now, a mining company is drilling around the clock to determine how to get those metals out.

In neighbouring Domini-can Republic, workers are poised to start mining the other side of this seam later this year in one of the world's largest gold deposits: 23 million ounces worth about $40 billion.

The Haitian government's annual budget is $1 billion, more than half provided by foreign assistance. The largest single source of foreign investment, $2 billion, came from Haitians working abroad last year. A windfall of locally produced wealth could pay for roads, schools, clean water and sewage systems for the nation's 10 million people, most of whom live on as little as $1.25 a day. "If the mining companies are honest and if Haiti has a good government, then here is a way for this country to move forward," said Bureau of Mines Director Dieuseul Anglade.

In a parking lot outside Anglade's marble-floored office, more than 100 families have been living in tents since the earthquake. "The gold in the mountains belongs to the people of Haiti," he said, gesturing out his window. "And they need it."—*Internet*

In this 10 April, 2012 photo, Genove Valcimon, 70, poses for a picture as he works on a road being built through the mountains to lead to an exploratory drill site in the department of Trou Du Nord, Haiti. Haiti's land may yet hold the solution to centuries of poverty: there is gold hidden in its hills, and silver and copper too.—INTERNET

Botox may soon be used to treat migraine

LONDON, 13 May— Botox may soon become an NHS-approved remedy for chronic migraine in England and Wales, following a recommendation by the health watchdog. The toxins known as Botox are famous for their use in cosmetic treatments, to fill soft tissue and remove wrinkles.

But the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) announced on Friday that its appraisal committee is backing the use of Botox injections for migraine sufferers for whom other treatments have not worked.

Thousands of people across Britain suffer from chronic migraine, defined by the regulatory body as headaches on at least 15 days per month of which at least eight days are with migraine. The organization estimates that chronic migraines afflict around 1.6 percent of adults.

"Chronic migraines are extremely debilitating and can significantly affect a person's quality of life," said Professor Carole Longson, director of the health technology evaluation centre at NICE.

"We are pleased that the committee has been able to recommend Botox as a preventative therapy for those adults whose headaches have not improved despite trying at least three other medications and whose headaches are not caused by medication overuse."

NICE had been asked to advise the NHS on whether Botox, known chemically as botulinum toxin type A and manufactured by Allergan, would provide value for money in treating chronic migraine in England and Wales.

The appraisal committee has come out in favour of the treatment after obtaining more information and analyses from Allergan.

Longson said: "We have published our final draft guidance so that registered stakeholders can highlight any factual errors or appeal against our provisional recommendations. We have not yet issued guidance to the NHS on the use of this drug."—*Internet*

Lyn Talent receives a free Botox injection at an event in Arlington, Virginia, in 2009. Botox could soon become an NHS approved remedy for chronic migraine, following a recommendation by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.—INTERNET

Tymoshenko's tigress gives birth to 4 cubs

KIEV, 13 May—A beautiful white tiger that became a symbol of Yulia Tymoshenko's presidential campaign has returned to the spotlight by giving birth to four cubs, including a rare albino one.

Activists hope the birth of the cubs in a zoo on Sunday will lift the spirits of Tymoshenko since she is now in prison and she had used the tigress, Tigryulia, as a symbol of ferocious resolve.

For nearly three weeks, Tymoshenko was on a hunger strike after prison officials allegedly beat her, and she ended it on Wednesday when a German doctor was allowed to supervise her treatment for severe back pain at the clinic in the eastern city of Kharkiv, where her prison is located.

"These are really very rare tigers," said Oleh Zubkov, head of Ukraine's biggest zoo, where Tigryulia is kept in the Black Sea resort city Yalta. "All the zoos in Ukraine and in the world dream of having such tigers born."

Since Tigryulia, a 3-year-old white Bengal tiger, successfully delivered the cubs she has been reluctant to nurse them, apparently distracted by zoo visitors and her partner, a 6-year-old tiger from France named Patrice. Zoo workers are helping out by nursing the cubs from bottles.

Zubkov, whose wife works at the zoo, said she "has completely disappeared from my life — she feeds them every two hours."

Tigryulia's path to fame started in the summer of 2009, when the then 4-month-old tiger was bought at a Swiss zoo and presented to Tymoshenko, the charismatic Orange Revolution heroine, at a children's festival.

Tymoshenko, who then served as prime minister and was running for president, fell in love with the tiger and made the animal a key image of her campaign, with posters of Tymoshenko tenderly holding Tigryulia dotting the country.

Internet

In this handout photo provided by Skazka Zoo, taken on 6 May, 2012, a female white albino tiger, Tigrylia is seen with her newborn cub at the Skazka Zoo in Yalta, Ukraine. Tiger gave birth to four cubs, including a rare albino tiger.
INTERNET

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan presents a report at coordination meeting on Reform Strategy and Investment. MNA

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung submits a report at coordination meeting on Reform Strategy and Investment. MNA

Reform, a combination of National Plan approved by Hluttaw and Physical ...

(from page 1)

Now, the international community is asking about and studying investment opportunities in Myanmar and series of forums, seminars and business meetings are taking place. However, investors are having difficulties with different rules and laws of different departments of ministries. So, reviewing the situation, today's meeting needs to coordinate to come up with firm resolutions, to submit their coordinated points to the State and adopt pragmatic and firm polices and procedures that are usable in the long run and to publicly announce those polices for the knowledge of the public and foreign investors.

In conclusion, the Vice-President said as the local and foreign investments are the very important issue of the nation, there needs to have significant reforms and progress.

Then, Economic Adviser to the President Dr Hset Aung explained reform strategy and replied to the queries raised by those present. The Vice-President gave a supplementary remark.

Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein discussed investment matters and investments in industrial zones and industrial sector.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation explained investment opportunities in agricultural sector; Union Energy Minister in oil and gas sector; Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries in livestock and fishery sector; Union Minister for Electric Power No.1 and Union Minister for Electric Power No.2 in electricity sector; Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism in the hotel and tourism sector; Union Construction Minister in housing and building construction sector; Union Transport Minister and Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs in transport and communication sectors; Union Minister for Finance and Revenue in service sector and other sectors in which investment can be made; Union Education Minister in education sector and Union Health Minister in health sector. Other participants also discussed investment and general matters.

In conclusion, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the ministries should consider how to initiate the reform process and how to start it first. Although there are offers from global nations the country is still in no position to accept the offers but it should grasp the opportunities. Project (draft) as to reform process is to be submitted by the end of this month. Policies and supervision should be on the agenda of the reform campaign. Meanwhile, the number and wastage of departments are to be put under review and prompt action is to be taken if there are any things need reform. Relation styles between the director-general and the grassroots are to be changed if there any problems among them. The capacity of a ministry would decrease to a certain extent if there are any unskilled and inexperienced employees who enter the ministry later. This being the case, there should be an entrance exam for the candidates to be appointed at the ministry to be able to know their qualities and skills. Such system should go through the reform and be considered. And attention should be paid to original personnel whose chance can be blocked by the practices.

Foreign investments are to be considered whether they should be granted to local entrepreneurs. Some bankers can turn their back if they are permitted to do business on a joint-venture basis. It should be serious about that. And it is needed to consider that local entrepreneurs can be hit hard if some foreign investors draw back their investments. As to the handling of foreign currency, unnecessary control should be lifted. In the process, criticism is to be invited.

There are still works which cannot be implemented by the ministries although the timeframe is over one year. It should be clearly clarified. There are still many restrictions in the reform process of a ministry. There are repeated discussions on reviewing weaknesses and strengths at the meetings. Although there are any weaknesses, they are still left behind. Though entrepreneurs at home and abroad are engaged in business at a profit, service personnel need to do their work with a sense of sacrifice.

If the reform process has something to do with the constitution, contact is to be made with the Hluttaw. Reform to be undertaken by the ministries or the government cannot be difficult if it can be made under the authority of the President. Region and state chief ministers are to coordinate with the Union government when the matters are concerned with administrative affairs. There are still many that are out of touch between the central and the lower. Only frequent contact can lead to convenience of the two. With the authorities of the President and the ministries, reform can be introduced. Reform or investment requires cooperation, and only then it will be 1.5 fold, doubled, tripled. But some sectors can be but some cannot be.

As to the hotel and tourism sector, the prospect is encouraging. There can be many tourists. Attention should be paid to hotels which are neat, secure, reasonable rather than big hotels since there are not only moneyed tourists but also backpackers. It is learnt from the media that the room charge was about 40 dollars in the past, and the charge now increases to 200 or 300 dollars. According to some tourists, security and good services is imperative for a hotel.

Therefore, if all the ministries, and region and state chief ministers are able to implement swiftly the firm laws as to reforms, local and foreign investments, long-term and short-term loans, financial aids, the country will make much progress all the more.—*MNA*

Generators installed for electricity supply in Yangon

Chairman U Aung Khaing of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board and party inspect tasks of electricity supply.—MNA

YANGON, 13 May— Chairman U Aung Khaing of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2, together with Vice-Chairman U Maung Maung Latt and officials concerned, this morning, inspected progress of preparations for electricity supply with installation of generators at the busy places so as to ensure public security and convenience of road passers as now is getting a lesser amount of electricity supply in Yangon Region.

In doing so, there have been a total of eight generators on a list; 500 KVA at Mawtin Jetty on Strand Road, 340 KVA near Myawady Bank on Sule Pagoda Street, 350 KVA at the corner between Bo Aung Kyaw and Merchant Street, 140 KVA near Thakayta roundabout, 250 KVA between Thitsa and Waizayanta Street, 375 KVA near Hledan Junction, 150 KVA between Hledan and Sinmalite and 340 KVA at Sawbwargyigon.—*MNA*

Myanmar delegation arrives back from Cambodia

YANGON, 13 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu arrived here back from Cambodia yesterday evening after making a educational study visit. The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by directors-general and officials of the Ministry of Education.—*MNA*

Roadwork, sanitation tasks inspected in Taninthayi Region

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Taninthayi Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo this morning inspected sanitation tasks being carried out by Myeik Township Development Affairs Committee for proper flow of water on both sides of Kanpya Road and Thazin Road in Parami (2) Ward, as well as viewing progress of tarring on Padauk Shwewah Road in Satwin Ward.—*MNA*

Lecturer leaves for Bangkok to attend World Records Committee meeting

YANGON, 13 May—English lecturer Daw Kathy of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) of the Ministry of Culture this morning left for Bangkok of Thailand to attend fifth general meeting of Asian Pacific World Records Committee from 14 to 17 May.

The rector of the university and officials saw her off at Yangon International Airport.—*MNA*

Slight earthquake hits inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about (15) miles southwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (16) hrs (07) min (36) sec M.S.T, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Talk on raising bio-security given

HOPIN, 13 May—The talk on raising bio-security was given to entrepreneurs of poultry farming at the hall of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Hopin Sub-Township on 6 May.

Head of Hopin Sub-Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Mohnyin District Dr Zaw Myint Naing gave talks on raising of bio-security.

LBVD

New fire station opened, Fire Brigade Day observed in Myawady

MYAWADY, 13 May—A ceremony to open the fire station of Myawady Township was held in conjunction with the ceremony to mark the 66th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day at the new fire station on 5 May morning.

After cutting the ribbon to open the new station, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Phyo Min Zaw explained the purpose of building the new station.

Next, U Tun Tun Win of U Aung Tun (Myanmar Top Power) Company handed over documents related to the new station to the head of Township Fire Services Department.

Deputy Commissioner U Myint Tin of District General Administration Department delivered an address at the 66th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day. Then, he presented 70 sets of uniforms to members of the Fire Brigade.

Myanma Alin

Workers' Day observed in Mansi

MANSI, 13 May—The Workers' Day which falls on 1 May was observed at the hall of Mansi Township General Administration Department on 1 May.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Oo of General Administration Department read the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.—*Myanma Alin*

Sangyoung Township reconstitutes writers association

YANGON, 13 May—Sangyoung Township Writers Association held the executive committee meeting at its office at No. 18 on East Kon Street in Sangyoung Township on 7 May morning.

Chairman of the association U Win Maung Maung (Maung Tha Pyae) explained the work report, future task and publication of San Thila Magazine No 6.

The association was reconstituted on 22 April.

At the ceremony, U Win Maung Maung (Maung Tha Pyae) was elected as chairman, Daw Khin Marlar Tun (Phyu Sin Win) as vice-chairman, Daw Thida Myint (Ma Hintha-Maths) as secretary, Daw Aye Thet Htar as joint secretary, Daw Khin Htar Myint (Yun Htaik Htar) as treasurer, U Kyaw Kyaw (Kyaw Kyaw-Sethmu Tekkatho), U Myint Win (San Htet Min), Daw Khin Lay Mon (Kalya Mon-Sangyoung) and U Kyaw Min (Nyein Min Ko) as executives.—*Myanma Alin*

SCHOOL HEALTH INSPECTED: ***Headmaster Dr Aung Ko Ko, School health in-charge Daw Thin Nwe, Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Kyway Kyway Tun and health staff took preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever in the compound of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Dagon of Yangon Region. They are carrying out spraying and sanitation on 9 May.***

MYANMA ALIN

GS of UMFCCI meets Kayin State CCI officials

YANGON, 13 May—General Secretary Dr Myo Thet of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry made a trip to Hpa-an on 25 April and met with Chairman of Kayin State Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Khin Maung Yi and executives, members and entrepreneurs at Grand Hill Hotel in Hpa-an.

They discussed greater achievement of the federation, development of trade and industrial industries, systematic holding of annual general meeting of the association and organizing the members.

It was also attended by Kayin State ministers and departmental officials.

UMFCCI

Fire Brigade Day marked with sanitation in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 13 May—In commemoration of the 66th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day, the collective sanitation and water donation was held at Home for the Aged in Tachilek on 5 May with the participation of Staff Officer U Aung Kyaw Naing of Tachilek District Fire Services Department, Head of Fire Station U Kyaw Kyaw Ko and members of Fire Brigade and Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

They supplied drinking water to the home with the use of three fire engines.

They also carried out sanitation at the precinct of Weluwun Sasana Yeiktha in Honglek Village-tract in Tachilek and donated drinking water to there with the use of two fire engines.

Myanma Alin

Myanmar Libraries Foundation invites cash, book donations

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

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

UNIFORMS PRESENTED: ***A ceremony to provide uniforms for 37 staff members of Bahan Township General Administration Department was held at the office of the department on 4 May. Township Administrator U Zaw Win presents uniforms worth K 635,400 to staff members through Deputy Head of Department U Win Naing Soe.—*** **TOWNSHIP GAD**

Leak of natural gas pipeline repaired in time

MANDALAY, 13 May—Natural gas from the pipeline being supplied to Kyunlyashay Fertilizer Plant from Nyaungdon Natural Gas Station leaked near farmland of U Ngwe Tun, east of Magukyun Village in Kangyidaunt Township at 7.15 am on 1 May.

A dutiful people informed the leak of natural gas of the authorities in time and officials could repair the natural gas pipeline.

Security officials said that such leak of natural gas was for the second time in Kangyidaunt Township; and three months ago, the natural gas pipeline leaked between railroad and motor road in Dakah.

Myanma Alin

Mountaineering team climbs five hills continuously

YANGON, 13 May—A 27-member team led by Chairman of Universities' Hiking and Mountaineering Association U Myo Thant (Executive of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation) took practices to scale five hills in Mindat District of southern Chin State.

The team reached the apex of 8862 feet high Lontein Hill on 13 April, Bontala Yedagun Hill on 15 April, 9020 feet high Mawpi Hill which is the second highest mountani in Chin State on 17 April, 10800 feet high Khonusom Hill which is the highest in Chin State on 21 April and 4981 feet high Mount Popa of Mandalay Region on 24 April.

They successfully hoisted the State flags on the apexes of the hill.

The mountaineering team donated cash, books, clothes and medicines to local people, villages and Parahita schools on their tours and gave health care services to the local people.

The journeys of mountaineering team was helped by officials of townships in Mindat District and local people of Chin national races.

U Myo Thant

Information for trafficking in person

The government is carrying out undertakings of prevention 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 trafficking in persons.

These telephone numbers are 067-412555 and 067-412666 in Nay PyiTaw, 09-49555666 in Muse, 09-49555777 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

CONCRETE DRAINS REPAIRED: ***Under the leadership of towselders, local people participate in repairing of concrete drains in Block 11/12 of Ward 5 in Hlinethaya Township on 4 May for proper flow of water in rainy season.—*** **MYANMA ALIN**

Fire Brigade Day observed in Mawlamyinegyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 13 May—The 66th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was observed at the office of Mawlamyinegyun Township Fire Services Department on 5 May morning.

At first, Township Administrator U Htay Maung, Region Hluttaw representatives U Myint Aung and U Aung Zaw Hlaing presented certificates of honour to 45 outstanding auxiliary fire brigade members and fire warehouse wellwisher U Ko Ko Oo.

Head of Township Fire Services Department U Than Soe and members demonstrated fire drill with the use of fire engines.

Myanma Alin

Monks, nuns who passed religious exams honoured

TWANTAY, 13 May—Çula convocation was held at Sasana Beikmandaw in Twantay Township of Yangon South District on 3 May.

It was attended by Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, the chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and the monks who passed the religious examinations, Township Administrator U Than Zaw Han, Staff Officer of Township Planning Department U Soe Hlaing Oo, Head of Township Religious Affairs U Bo Hsan, departmental officials, Chairman of Township Sasana Nuggaha Association U Kyaw Than and executives and local people of eight wards.

At the ceremony, certificates were conferred on 75 members of the Sangha and nuns who passed the exams and 82 laypersons.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

BO TREE WATERED: ***The 18th ceremony of pouring water at Bo tree was held at the precinct of Pyilon Chantha Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in Ward 107 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 5 May. Members of the Sangha, Head of Township General Administration Department U Aye Win Khaing, religious association members and local people pour water at Bo tree.***

MYANMA ALIN

Tailoring courses opened at vocational training school in Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 13 May—The advanced tailoring course No. 17 and the basic tailoring course No. 20 were opened at Women's Vocational Training School of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs in Pakokku on 7 May morning.

Acting Deputy Commissioner U Myat Tun Oo made a speech on the occasion.

Altogether 15 trainees are attending the advance course and 32, the basic course both of which will last three and a half months.

Myanma Alin

16 villages along Wundwin-Pintale Road enjoyings fruits better transport

In 1958 when it was the time of Pha-Sa-Pa-La government, Wundwin-Pintale Road was constructed as a rural road. The road was 14 miles and three furlongs long. Due to lack of maintenance for 40 years, the road was damaged, causing poor transport. Thus, the four miles and seven furlongs long section of the road was maintained with the contribution of the local people in 1993.

After that, Wundwin-Pintale Road was constructed as a gravel road in 1996. In so doing, three culverts across Thinpon Creek, Phonekon Creek and Phutyoe Creek were renovated. In addition, maintenance works were carried out at three concrete roads, 12 small bridges and four wooden bridges.

Wundwin-Pintale Road was constructed as a gravel facility by Township Development Affairs Committee up to 2012. So far, the seven miles and six furlongs long section has been placed with gravel. As a result, local people from Htanaunggon, Natkon, Taungtha, Thonhtaunttaing, Kanauk and Pintale Villages have easy access to transportation of local products to other regions. Thanks to improvement of transport sector, the local people are enjoying fruits of social, education and health sectors. At present, the local people from 61 villages along the road are getting smooth transport.

Wundwin Township Development Affairs Committee plans to place gravel along two miles and four furlongs long remaining section in 2012-2013 fiscal year.—*Myanma Alin*

Cigarette fire destroys timber warehouse, housings in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 13 May—A fire broke out at timber warehouse and sawmill in the compound of private construction site at Block 883 on 66th Street between 27th and 28th streets in Pyigyi Myethman Ward of Chanayethazan Township at 3.30 pm on 9 May.

The fire started from cigarette of guard Tun Myint. Without putting out fire, he placed the cigarette on the carpenter's plane and then sparks blazed wood shavings.

A total of 45 members of Fire Brigade and 175 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade joined hands with the local people in putting out fire with the use of 53 fire engines under control of Fire Services Department of Mandalay Region, four supporting vehicles and three water tankers of Mandalay City Development Committee. Therefore, they could die out the fire at 6 am.

One 25x25 feet RC building, one storey building, one 36x20 feet building, one 45x40 feet building, 15 tons of timber and other timber products were destroyed in the fire.

Action was taken against the negligent person at No. 3 police station.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

MFF President meets players of Myanmar U-22 Football Team

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw met members of Myanmar U-22 football team that come back in Yangon from the training tour of the Republic of Korea, at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Football Federation on 9 May.

It was attended by responsible persons of Myanmar Football Federation, officials of Myanmar U-22 Football Team and players.

The MFF President made a speech. Then, each players of the U-22 team recounted their experiences in the tune-up matches against South Korean football clubs.

"It is not wrong that Chief Coach Pak Song Hua assessed that Myanmar players have lack of basic football skills and other performances. Football techniques and skills of us are different from that of Korean players, for example taking football and tussling the ball.

"In some technique, we committed many mistakes. The Korean coach said he seems Myanmar players stop in playing. Yes, it is true. When we played against Korean teams, we were exhausted two or three times than that in the mother land. We faced that Korean players of the whole team were running along the match in the field. Their speed was higher," said Thet Naing, a player of U-22 football team.

The President of Myanmar Football Federation assigned duties to Kyaw Ko Ko, Maing Aik Naing and Kyaw Zeyar Win of Myanmar Youth Team to recount their experiences from the tune-up matches on their visit of South Korea to age-wise football teams such as U-13, U-14 and U-19 teams.

Moreover, the President of the federation remarked that the tune-up matches tour of South Korea was valuable.

By Zaw Min Aung

European Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn presents the EU Commission's interim economic forecast during a news conference at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels on 11 May, 2012. REUTERS

EU's Rehn against debt funded growth, backs Spain plan

TALLINN, 13 May—The European Union's top economic official on Saturday warned against funding national growth packages with new debt and urged governments to stick with structural reforms and cuts to fiscal deficits as the route out of the region's economic crisis.

The election of new president in France on a platform calling for growth-oriented economic policies opposed to German lead calls for continued fiscal austerity has opened a debate on economic policy direction at both the national and EU level.

"We cannot solve this crisis by piling new debt on top of old debt which is already damaging our economic growth prospects," Olli Rehn, Europe's commissioner for economic and monetary affairs, said in panel presentation at a conference in Tallinn.

The commissioner added, "first of all it is essential to stay on the course of fiscal consolidation because we are suffering from a very high level of public debt which has increased from 60 percent on average to 90 pct in Europe."

However, Rehn was upbeat on Spain's banking sector rescue package, which was released on Friday, after the bursting of a real estate bubble hammered many of the nation's lenders.

"Our assessment is that this is a very convincing plan of action in order to ensure Spain will have a resilient and viable banking sector, which is necessary, not a sufficient, but a necessary condition for returning to the path of sustainable growth," Rehn said.

Reuters

EU force frees Iranian dhow from Somali pirates

NAIROBI, 13 May—A European Union naval vessel rescued an Iranian fishing dhow that was being used by Somali pirates as a "mothership" for attacks on other boats, the EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) said on Saturday.

EU NAVFOR said its frigate *HNLMS Van Amstel* rescued the dhow and its crew of 17 Iranians off the coast of Somalia. Eleven suspected pirates were on board.

"*The dhow* had been pirated 10 days earlier and was being used to carry out pirate attacks on merchant vessels," it said in a statement.

Somali pirates are making greater use of captured smaller boats for launching attacks as they are harder to track than bigger ships that they used to favour.

The dhow was spotted by a surveillance flight, EU NAVFOR said. It was towing two skiffs and what looked like weapons used to attack vessels.

Although the hijack success rate for Somali pirates has dropped sharply in recent months, sea bandits seized a Greek-owned tanker carrying close to a million barrels of crude oil on Thursday, while it was sailing in the Arabian sea.

Reuters

A taxi breaks down in ponding water of heavy rains in Liuzhou City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Torrential rains hit Liuzhou on Saturday night.—XINHUA

Mexico spending heavily on troubled oil field

MEXICO CITY, 13 May—State-run oil company Pemex is spending heavily on the Chicontepec oil field viewed as the least potentially profitable of current projects, Mexico's oil regulator says.

Pemex spent 26.7 billion pesos ($1.98 billion) on the Chicontepec project in 2011. It represents 12 percent of the company's total production and exploration budget and 86 percent of its exploration budget, according to an English version of a report posted on Saturday on the National Hydrocarbons Commission's website.

"Chicontepec projects present the least profitability and highest uncertainty when they are compared to every other project," the report said. Overhauling the state oil monopoly to increase output, profitability and transparency is a top issue in the 1 July presidential election, since Mexico relies on oil revenues to fund around a third of the federal budget.

Mexico, the world's No 7 oil producer and a major exporter to the United States, could become an oil importer in the coming years if it can not replace a sharp drop in output from major oil fields with new discoveries.

The report also says 75 percent of potential deepwater exploration projects would not likely be profitable to develop. Shallow-water projects look more likely to generate profits, it says.

Pemex, which is not publicly traded, has lagged in developing the technology to successfully tap deepwater wells. That has led to calls to open up the oil sector to greater private investment, which could jump-start production. The independent commission, which gives official recommendations to Pemex, last year rejected the oil giant's development plan for the Chicontepec fields.

Pemex has sunk billions of dollars of investment into the Chicontepec project, but has fallen short of production goals due to challenging geology. The commission report said Pemex had much more profitable projects that it could be exploiting, noting only 22 percent of exploration projects that would likely be highly profitable were funded in 2011.—*Reuters*

World's largest art car parade rolls through US city of Houston

HOUSTON, 13 May—The world's largest art car parade rolled through the fourth-largest US city of Houston on Saturday, attracting an estimated more than 300,000 spectators.

The parade, now in its 25th year, gave art car-lovers a rare chance to view more than 300 cars of every shape and design imaginable, from a giant Radio Flyer wagon, a rolling banana, to a giant metal dragon.

Parade entries include anything on wheels from unicycles, lawnmowers, to cars and go-carts. Participants are community groups, public and private schools, professional organizations, as well as individuals. "The Houston Art Car Parade captures the essence of Houston's eclectic and fun culture," said Houston Mayor Annise Parker. "It is among my favourite events and one of the most unique treasures our great city offer."

Kerri Kepler, who built her miniature ship out of a shopping cart, said her art car was "a super fun project to work on." The parade day "is probably my most favorite day of the entire year," she said.

The Earth, Wind and Fire car was built by art students at a local high school in collaboration with the robotics class.

Participants were not only enjoying the process of transforming an ordinary car into a great peace of art, they also were participating to deliver the message that art is an integral part of everyday life.—*Xinhua*

A youth from Scotland takes part in the pony competition of Windsor Horse Show in Windsor, Britain on 12 May, 2012. —XINHUA

400 vehicles stranded on landslide-hit road in Xinjiang

URUMQI, 13 May—A landslide in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region blocked a section of highway on Saturday, leaving 400 vehicles stranded, local police said.

The landslide occurred in Kizilsu Kirgiz autonomous prefecture around noon and buried a 50-metre-section of National Highway 314, prefecture police said.

More than 400 vehicles were stuck on the road as of 3 pm, but no one was hurt in the landslide, police said.

Police are cleaning up the debris, but as the total volume of the debris was estimated at 10,000 cubic meters, the road is not expected to reopen until Sunday afternoon.

Food and water have been delivered to the stranded motorists, police said.

National Highway 314, with a total length of 1,948 kilometres, runs east from Urumqi, the regional capital of Xinjiang, along the southern foot of Mount Tianshan before ending in the city of Kunjirap near the Pakistan-China border.

Xinhua

Dengue fever kills 14 Cambodian children in 1st four months

PHNOM PENH, 13 May—Cambodia reported 2,277 dengue fever cases, killing 14 children in the first four months of 2012, Dr. Char Meng Chuor, director of the National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, said on Sunday.

During the four months this year, the infection cases of the disease had increased by 369 percent if compared to the same period last year, he said. "It's a concern for us," he said, appealing to people to sleep in mosquito nets and keep clean environment around their houses. "To prevent the disease, it's required to kill larvae by using Abate and by filling in puddles around houses, which are sources of mosquitoes," he said.

About 270 tones of Abate (a chemical substance used to kill larvae in water pots) will be distributed free of charge to households this year, he added.

Dengue is caused by mosquitoes. The disease causes an acute illness of sudden onset that usually follows symptoms such as headache, fever, exhaustion, severe muscle and joint pain, swollen glands and rash.—*Xinhua*

Armed soldiers hose down the fire on Mt Laoyingshan on the outskirts of Lijiang, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 10 May, 2012. More than 1,600 people are struggling to put out a fire that has been raging in a mountain forest since Wednesday afternoon near a scenic city in Yunnan Province, local authorities said. A lingering drought has made extinguishing the fire more difficult.—XINHUA

S Korea expo draws tens of thousands on first day

YEOSU, 13 May—Tens of thousands of people flocked to South Korea's 2012 international expo on Saturday on the first day of the three-month show with the theme of "The Living Ocean and Coast". The southern coastal city of Yeosu opened Expo 2012 to the public after four years of preparation and $10 billion investment, with 104 participating nations showcasing their oceanic culture and science.

Ten international organizations and eight firms are also staging exhibitions at the 25-hectare (60-acre) seafront area, which features pavilions, a giant aquarium and a floating stage for performances.

Organizers said they expected a total of 10 million visitors by the end of the expo in August, including up to 800,000 foreigners, mostly from China and Japan.

"There's no rush... our goal is drawing genuine visitors by word of mouth, not trying to boost attendance with usual free tickets and other artificial measures," Cho Yong-Hwan, an organizing committee spokesman, told reporters.

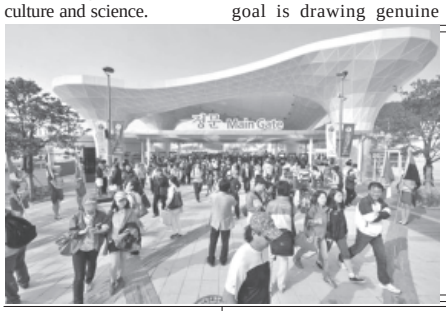
Expo 2012 Yeosu is being held between the headline World Expos, which are staged every five years. The last was in Shanghai in 2010. Tourism in Yeosu — home to 300,000 people — has been limited due to poor transport links and outdated infrastructure despite a scenic coastline and hundreds of nearby islands.

The government has poured in billions of dollars to build new roads and railways since the port city won its expo bid in 2007.

Organizers predict the event will create some 80,000 jobs and bring economic benefits worth 19 trillion won ($17 billion) — outweighing the massive spending.

On Saturday, the site, formerly a dusty cement terminal, was teeming with tourists — mostly South Korean — with long queues forming at major exhibitions by countries including the US, Japan and China.

Japan focused on the deadly quake-tsunami disaster that hit its northeastern coast last year, playing an animated film about people trying to rebuild their lives while protecting sea life.—*Internet*



Visitors at the Expo 2012 in Yeosu, South Korea, on 12 May . A total of 104 nations and 10 international organirations stage exhibitions over the next three months at the expo which has the theme "The Living Ocean and Coast". INTERNET

A SeaFrance ferry moored at Calais in January. Eurotunnel, the operator of the Channel tunnel between Britain and France, is offering to buy all assets of liquidated ferry company SeaFrance for 65 million euros, a lawyer says.—INTERNET

Eurotunnel in 65 m-euro bid for SeaFrance

PARIS, 12 May—Eurotunnel, operator of the Channel tunnel between Britain and France, is offering to buy all assets of liquidated ferry company SeaFrance for 65 million euros, a lawyer said.

The offer is designed to outmanoeuvre a rival bid by Sweden's Stena Line and another by French shipping firm Louis Dreyfus Armateurs and Danish ferry company DFDS, which only want to purchase one or two ships, Jacques Tellache, a lawyer representing former SeaFrance employees, told *AFP*. "Eurotunnel is offering 65 million euros ($84 million) for the entirety of the tangible and intangible assets," Tellache said after a commercial court hearing in Paris. "This means the three ships but also the buildings, the counters in Britain, the stocks of oil and fuel oil, the computers." A Eurotunnel spokeswoman confirmed the company had made a global offer including "ships, stocks and the brand", and said the firm would create 560 jobs.

Eurotunnel has said it would rent the ships to a workers' cooperative of ex-SeaFrance employees, SeaFrance SCOP.

SeaFrance, which employed 880 people in France and 130 in Britain, owned three of the four ships it ran across the Channel before a French court ordered it closed in January amid liquidation proceedings. Louis Dreyfus Armateurs and DFDS are offering 30 million euros for SeaFrance's Berlioz ship, 25 million euros for sister ship Rodin or 50 million euros for both, a source close to the case said.—*Internet*

Four missing from south China flash flood

NANNING, 13 May—Four people were missing after a flash flood hit a shed at a construction site in Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region early Saturday morning, local authorities said.

Rescuers are looking for the missing in Wanggao township in the city of Hezhou where the flood occurred, said officials with the Department of Land and Resources of Guangxi.—*Xinhua*

Car bomb kills policeman in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 May—Iraqi officials say a car bomb has killed a policeman in the western city of Ramadi.

Security officials say the parked car exploded around 7:30 am Sunday near a police patrol in a main street in the center of the city. An official in the nearby Ramadi hospital said five other policemen were seriously wounded. Two passers-by were also wounded, he said.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Ramadi is the capital of Anbar province and used to be a stronghold of al-Qaeda. Recently, local militias have managed to bring a measure of calm to the city and province, part of a general drop in violence seen across the country.—*Internet*

Over 10,000 Congolese flee fighting to Rwanda, Uganda

KIBUMBA, 13 May—More than 10,000 people have fled from DR Congo to neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda following clashes between the Congolese army and rebels, officials said on Friday.

Fighting raged on in the jungle region where rebel leader General Bosco Ntaganda — known as the "Terminator" and wanted in The Hague for war crimes — has led mutinous ex-army troops against government forces.

Some soldiers from his group, the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP), said they had broken away and formed a new militia, the 23 March Movement (M23).

Amid the violence, nearly 7,500 people have fled to Rwanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo's Nord Kivu province, said Antoine Ruvebana, from Rwanda's disaster management ministry.

Ruvebana said Rwanda had identified an area to set up a transit camp for the refugees. Rwanda already hosts about 55,000 Congolese refugees, mostly ethnic Tutsi, who escaped targeted violence by Rwandan Hutu militia operating in eastern DR Congo and who have been in the country for several years.

Refugees have also fled to Uganda, where they are adopting a "wait and see attitude", hoping the violence dies down and they can return home swiftly, said a UN refugee agency official in Uganda's capital Kampala.

"Initial reports we received indicate that roughly 3,000 individuals have crossed into Uganda," said Sakura Atsumi, deputy representative for UNHCR in Uganda.

"There are many coming and the numbers seem to be increasing," said Musa Ecweru, Uganda's state minister for disaster preparedness. Fierce fighting raged on Friday in Nord Kivu, rebels and a government official said.

"The clashes are going on at Bunagana. We are six kilometres (four miles) from the town of Bunagana," a mutineer who was formerly a member of the CNDP said.

Internet

Residents of the town of Kibumba towards Rutshsuru, 30 kms from Goma, on Wednesday as they flee fighting between the Congolese army and deserters led by ex-general Bosco Ntaganda. The army in Democratic Republic of Congo was Friday engaged in heavy fighting in Nord-Kivu province with mutineers who have formed a new rebel force, the rebels and a government official say.—INTERNET

White buffalo bull being donated to Texas ranch

DALLAS, 13 May—An Oregon peacemaker said she's so upset by the apparent slaughter of a rare white buffalo calf —deemed "the hope of all nations" by a Lakota Sioux rancher last year — that her organization is donating a white buffalo bull from its herd.

Arby Little Soldier, who owns the Lakota Ranch near the North Texas town of Greenville, said he had hoped the 3,000-pound gift would arrive during a memorial celebration this weekend that was initially intended to celebrate Lightning Medicine Cloud's first birthday, which was 12 May. The calf was found dead nearly two weeks ago.

"We're trying to surprise everybody," Little Soldier said on Friday, while preparing for opening ceremonies that were later cancelled by rain. A memorial service will be held on Sunday morning.

Cynthia Hart-Button, the bull's caretaker and the president of the Sacred World Peace Alliance, is tight-lipped about the animal's exact arrival time because of transportation and security concerns. The organization claims to have a record 14 white buffalo on its sanctuary in central Oregon. "It's a sad tragedy," she said of the calf's death. "So, instead of them thinking that they lost their hope, we're bringing their hope back in a different way."

Hart-Button said she hopes the bull, named Chief Hiawatha, will produce another white calf for the Lakota Ranch. The bull will turn 7 on 16 May.

She said Hiawatha has been like a guard dog, growling when someone comes near who "is not good in spirit."

"I'm sending it down to protect not only the buffalo but to protect him (Arby Little Soldier) and his family," Hart-Button said.—*Internet*

This undated handout photo provided by Cynthia Hart-Button shows Chief Hiawatha, a white buffalo bull. Cynthia Hart-Button, president of the Sacred World Peace Alliance says the nonprofit sanctuary for white buffalo in central Oregon is sending Chief Hiawatha as a gift to a rancher and his family in North Texas whose white buffalo calf, Lightning Medicine Cloud, was killed nearly two weeks ago.—INTERNET

'Tanorexic' doll parodies tan mom Krentcil

A Connecticut company has created an action figure based on Patricia Krentcil, the woman accused of allowing her 6-year-old to join her in a tanning bed.

Herobuilders.com, based in Oxford, released the Tanorexic Doll this week based on Krentcil, 44, who became infamous for her deep tan after appearing in court on a child endangerment charge for allegedly allowing her 6-year-old daughter to tan with her, *The (Newark, NJ) Star-Ledger* reported Wednesday.

"We just typically look at media hits on stories that captivate the nation," said Emil Vicale, president of Herobuilders. "I hate to say it, but this is one of those."

Richard Krentcil, the woman's husband, said his wife did not give permission for her likeness to be used and she has not received any cash from sales of the $29.95 doll. "I'm going to see what my lawyer says," Krentcil said. "I'm sure it will be rectified shortly."

However, legal experts said Herobuilders is likely protected under parody laws and has not used Krentcil's name on the doll's packaging or its Web site.

The Tanorexic doll from Herobuilders.com.

Ohio prisoners in 'Real Men Crochet' group

A group of 15 inmates at an Ohio maximum security prison have joined a "Real Men Crochet" programme to make mittens, hats and other items for charity.

Jan Vurginac, who coordinates the programme for prisoners at Lebanon Correctional Institution in Warren County, said the club started in 2008 and has since gained popularity among inmates eligible for extra privileges, the *Cincinnati Enquirer* reported .

"Time goes by quick and they enjoy doing it for the children. It keeps them busy. Idle time is a big problem," Vurginac said.

The items made by the men are donated to groups including women's and homeless shelters, maternity programmes, the Crayons to Computers free store for teachers in Cincinnati and the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Dayton, Ohio.

Robert Mack, who killed a Mount Airy man in a 2007 shootout, said crocheting gives him a positive way to pass his time in the prison. "It takes up a lot of my time. It gives me something to do to keep myself active knowing that we helping people … to stay out of trouble," Mack said.

Prisoners at Lebanon Correctional Institution in Warren County, started the "Real Men Crochet" club in 2008.

Man wins six $1M prizes from same lottery

An Arizona man who purchased six Powerball lottery tickets with the same numbers ended up with six $1 million prizes. Karen Bach, an Arizona Lottery spokeswoman, said the Glendale man, who asked to remain anonymous, purchased the tickets for the 25 April lottery with the numbers 4, 25, 29, 34, and 43 for Powerball 29 and each ticket won him a $1 million second prize, the Arizona Republic reported Friday.

Bach said the man purchased the tickets at a QuikTrip store.

Police use stun gun on pregnant woman

A Florida woman said police endangered the life of her unborn child when they used a stun gun on her while she was eight months pregnant.

Angel Adams, 39, said two Tampa police officers, a male and a female, forced their way into her home while chasing one of her sons for allegedly throwing rocks at another home in the neighbourhood, Tampa Bay Online reported .

"I told officers, 'Don't come in my house. You don't have a search warrant," she said.

However, she said the officers still came inside and one of them shoved her, leading to a struggle with her 21-year-old daughter. She said the female officer chased her into her bedroom and threw her down on her bed before the male officer used the stun gun on her back.

News Album

Nimoy glad to be back with 'Fringe'

Leonard Nimoy, who played the character Mr. Spock in the TV series "Star Trek," speaks at a ceremony following the landing of the Space Shuttle Enterprise at John F. Kennedy International Airport on 27 April, 2012 in New York City.
INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 13 May—Veteran actor Leonard Nimoy said Fox's "Fringe" had the right stuff to draw him out of retirement and back on to the small screen.

Nimoy made his first on-screen appearance in two years on the latest episode of "Fringe," appearing in person as William Bell, a character for whom he did a voiceover appearance a year ago.

Nimoy told reporters this week he is a fan of executive producer JJ Abrams, who also directed the recent film version of "Star Trek" and felt he was a good fit with "Fringe."

"All the characters are fleshed out wonderfully and the chemistry amongst the cast is terrific," he said. "I wanted to be part of this project."—*Internet*

Knightley: Gossip a distraction for fans

British actress Keira Knightley attends a screening of "A Dangerous Method" at the May Fair Hotel in London on 31 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

LONDON, 13 May—British actress Keira Knightley said getting too much information about the personal lives of her fellow movie stars can hurt their effectiveness on the screen.

Knightley, who starred in "Atonement" and "Pirates of the Caribbean," told Britain's *The Daily Telegraph* the detailed media coverage of celebrities' private lives can be a distraction for audience members.

"I hate knowing too much when I'm going to the cinema and watching as a viewer," Knightley, 27, told the newspaper. "I don't want to know that the actor has just gone through a divorce. I don't want to know that the person is an alcoholic. It just gets in the way of my pleasure of watching the character."

Knightley said the celebrity press has blanketed Hollywood to the point that "everybody knows absolutely everything." "I think it does change something, and not for the better," Knightley said. "I like watching films when I don't know anything about the people."—*Internet*

Russell Brand and ex-wife

Russell Brand 'unfollows' ex Katy Perry on Twitter

WASHINGTON, 13 May—Russell Brand finally unfollowed his soon-to-be ex-wife Katy Perry on Twitter earlier this week. The 27-year-old singer, 28, unfollowed the British comedian, 36, almost immediately after their split, US Magazine reported.

Though he boasts over 4.6 million followers of his own, Brand's latest "unfollow" brings the total number of Twitter users he keeps up with to 77.

For her part, Perry seems equally focused on moving forward; at Coachella last month, the pop star was spotted making out with Florence + the Machine guitarist Robert Ackroyd.

While her fling with the musician is still new, "They're having a fabulous time," an insider said of the pair. "It's cute puppy love!"

Internet

Jennifer Hudson 'relieved' after family's killer brought to justice

WASHINGTON, 13 May—Jennifer Hudson is "relieved" and "pleased" that the man accused of murdering her mother, brother and nephew has been found guilty.

Jennifer Hudson

William Balfour, 31, was convicted of fatally shooting Hudson's mother Darnell Donerson, 57, her brother Jason Hudson, 29, and her seven-year-old nephew Julian King in 2008 by an Illinois jury on Friday after two days of deliberation, Contactmusic reported.

As the verdict was read out in court, Oscar winner Hudson broke down in tears and had to be comforted by her fiance, David Otunga. Her sister Julia was also present for the verdict.

Internet

Shakira notches 50 mn Facebook fans

WASHINGTON, 13 May—Colombian pop star Shakira set a new record on social networks this week as the number of her fans on Facebook zoomed to 50 million. The artist posted a photo on Friday on her Facebook profile in which she is seen wearing a party hat, holding a balloon in one hand and a poster in the other that reads "50 million!!!"

"Wow 50 million on Facebook. That's incredible. Many thanks for your love. A big kiss," she wrote. Shakira is one of the most active Latino stars on social networks with 16,000 followers on Twitter and has won nominations and prizes in this category, including Billboard's award for Latin Social Artist of the year last month in Miami.—*Internet*

Colombian pop star Shakira

Jennifer Lopez seeks court's permission to take kids on tour

WASHINGTON, 13 May—Jennifer Lopez is seeking permission from the court to split her children's time between her tour and Marc Anthony's.

Post the filing of divorce by Anthony in April, a court ordered that the offspring of the estranged couple should not cross the border of California without prior permission. The 42-year-old 'American Idol' panellist, who will embark on a series of concerts with Enrique Iglesias this year wishes to take her four-year-old twins Max and Emme on the tour, reports Contactmusic. On the other hand 43-year-old Marc will also be outside the state as he kicks of his own gig dates in August.—*Internet*

Jennifer Lopez

Five-goal Dortmund blast Bayern to clinch double

Borussia Dortmund's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the German Cup final on 1 May. Bundesliga champions Dortmund blasted Champions League finalists Bayern Munich 5-2 in the German Cup final to claim the first domestic double in their 103-year history.— INTERNET

MUNICH, 13 May—Bundesliga champions Borussia Dortmund blasted Champions League finalists Bayern Munich 5-2 in the German Cup final to claim the first domestic double in their 103-year history.

Poland striker Robert Lewandowski netted a hat-trick in the rout which will dent Bayern's confidence ahead of next Saturday's Champions League final against Chelsea at Munich's Allianz Arena.

"We cannot complain. Our entire defensive play was a catastrophe," admitted Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes.

"We have to take the blame and we did not deserve to win. We still have a major goal in mind and I think we will have all recovered from the shock by the Champions League final. That will be a completely different game."

After winning the German league title by eight points from Bayern, Dortmund continued their domination with their fifth consecutive win against Munich in the sold-out final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Unbeaten in their last 23 games in all competitions since last December, Dortmund have yet to lose in 2012.

"That was a cup final which no one from Dortmund could have better imagined," beamed Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp after his first cup win. "We were ice cool in our finishing and scored great goals. It's hard to put into words what has happened to us."

Goals by Japan star Shinji Kagawa, a penalty from Germany defender Mats Hummels and Lewandowski's treble cancelled out Arjen Robben's first-half penalty for Bayern and a second-half strike from France's Franck Ribery.

Germany's number one goalkeeper Manuel Neuer capped a poor night in Bayern's goal when he lost possession to allow Lewandowski to head his third goal nine minutes from time and claim his 30th goal of the season in all competitions.

Internet

Bayern Munich's defenders Breno (L) and Holger Badstuber (R) jumps for the ball with Dortmund's striker Robert Lewandowski during the German cup final football match at the Olympiastadion in Berlin. INTERNET

Guardiola bids farewell to La Liga with draw

BARCELONA, 13 May—Ten-man Barcelona needed an injury-time goal to secure a 2-2 draw at Real Betis on Saturday in coach Pep Guardiola's final La Liga game in charge.

Sergi Busquets got an early goal for the Catalans before they had Dani Alves sent-off early in the second-half.

Ruben Castro took full advantage of the numerical difference to score twice for Betis in the final 20 minutes, leaving Guardiola staring at defeat until Seydou Keita headed in an equaliser in the dying moments.

The departing coach can look back with satisfaction on four seasons in which he has won 13 trophies including three leagues titles before Real Madrid triumphed this season.

His final game will be on 25 May when his side take on Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish Cup final.

Internet

Barcelona's Lionel Messi (L) clashes with Real Betis' Benat Etxebarria during their Spanish La Liga match at Benito Villamarin stadium in Sevilla. The match ended in a 2-2 draw.— INTERNET

Na takes a 1-shot lead at Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, 13 May—Kevin Na is slow to pull the trigger, and quick to make fun of himself.

In what made for painful viewing Saturday in The Players Championship — for fans at the TPC Sawgrass and those watching from home — Na took hundreds of waggles as he set up over the ball, backed off the shot if he didn't feel comfortable and a couple of times purposely missed so he could start over.

The only number that mattered was a 4-under 68, one of only three bogey-free rounds on a dangerous golf course. Backing off only once in the 18th fairway, he hit his approach to 15 feet for birdie and took a one-shot lead over Matt Kuchar (69) going into the final round.

"There's so much on the line that I just have to sometimes back off," Na said. "Or I'll force myself to take it back, and on the way down I'll pull up and go over the top (of the ball). As ugly as it is, and as painful as it is, believe me, it's really tough for me. And I'm trying."

Kuchar had the lead until hitting wedge into the water at the island-green 17th and escaping with bogey, and he saved par from the rough-covered moguls to the right of the 18th green. He had one stretch of eight holes without a par, making six birdies and a bogey.

Rickie Fowler, coming off his first PGA Tour win last week at Quail Hollow, was dynamic as ever as he shot up the leaderboard. Fowler didn't make a bogey until the last hole but still had the best score of the third round with a 66 and was two shots behind. He is trying to become the first player since David Duval in 1997 to win his first two PGA Tour titles in consecutive weeks.

Internet

Kevin Na looks at his shot on the eighth green during the third round of the Players Championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass, Saturday, May 12, 2012, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.— INTERNET

Cuba's Robles fourth in Puerto Rico track meet

SAN JUAN, 13 May—Cuba's Dayron Robles, the reigning Olympic champion and world record-holder in the 110-meter hurdles, finished fourth in a track meet at Puerto Rico.

American Ryan Wilson won the race in 13.424 seconds to lead a US podium sweep in the event with Jason Richardson second in 13.425, David Payne third in 13.45 and Robles fourth in 13.47, just ahead of Cuba's Orlando Ortega in 13.53. Robles, who was using the event as a tuneup for the London Olympics, set the current world record of 12.87 seconds in 2008 in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

He is expected to compete in Diamond League events at Eugene, Oregon, and New York next month as well.

Internet

Cuba's Dayron Robles during the men's 60m hurdles at the Aviva Grand Prix athletics meeting in February 2012. Robles finished fourth in a track meet at Puerto Rico on 12 May.— INTERNET

International Sports

Tiralongo claims Giro d'Italia seventh stage

ROCCA DI CAMBIO, 13 May—Paolo Tiralongo outsprinted one of the overall favourites in Michele Scarponi to win the seventh stage of the Giro d'Italia over 202km from Recanati to Rocca di Cambio on Saturday.

Canadian Ryder Hesjedal took fifth on the stage, five seconds back, to take over the pink jersey from Italian Andriano Malori.

Hesjedal knows he won't be able to hold onto his lead right through to Milan but he intends to enjoy this moment for as long as he can.

"I didn't want to let this possibility go and I have to thank the whole team, especially (Christian) Vande Velde, for this incredible dream they're giving me," he said. "For me the aim is to wear the pink jersey for as long as possible."

The stage finished with a 19km climb up to Rocca di Cambio that really ramped up in the final 1.5km.

Escapees Stefano Pirazzi and Jose Herrada were caught in that final steep part after which Scarponi made a break for home from 400-metres out. Tiralongo gritted his teeth and stuck with his Italian countryman before nipping past in the final 50 metres.—*Internet*

Italy's Paolo Tiralongo celebrates after crossing the finish line in Rocca di Cambio. Tiralongo outsprinted one of the overall favourites in Michele Scarponi to win the seventh stage of the Giro d'Italia over 202km from Recanati to Rocca di Cambio on Saturday. INTERNET

Federer topples Tipsarevic to reach Madrid final

MADRID, 13 May—Roger Federer moved a step closer to a record-equaling 20th Masters title when he thumped Janko Tipsarevic 6-2,6-3 at the Madrid Open on Saturday to set up a final showdown with Tomas Berdych.

The Swiss maestro, whose 19 Masters titles put him one behind record holder Rafa Nadal, stroked 25 winners on the blue clay of the Manolo Santana show court as he chases a fourth title of the year that would lift him above Nadal to number two in the world.

In breezy conditions, seventh seed Tipsarevic could not reproduce the form that helped him to a shock quarter-final win against top seed and Serbian compatriot Novak Djokovic and has now lost all five of his meetings with Federer.

Federer came into the tournament following a month-long rest and the 30-year-old is looking in ominous form as the world's top players prepare for the French Open starting in Paris later this month.—*Reuters*

Swiss Roger Federer serves to Serbian Janko Tipsarevic during their semi-final tennis match of the Madrid Masters. REUTERS

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-5-12 09:30 am ~ 15-5-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* A Merry Bo Tree Watering Festival: Shwe Kyet Yat Village
* News
* Wonderful Resort in Myanmar
* News
* China National Acrobatic Troup
* News
* Exhibition Hall of the Great Chronicle of Buddha
* News
* Graduation Ceremony for Abhidhamma Diploma Course
* News
* Music Gallery
* News
* I love Myanmar
* News
* Pyadalin Cave; A Hidden Treasure House
* Myanmar Movie "Longing For Mother"

MYANMAR TV

(14-5-2012) (Monday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:40 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song

8:10 am
4. Teleplay (Traffic)

8:30 am
6. Dance Of National Races

4:05 pm
7. Martial Song

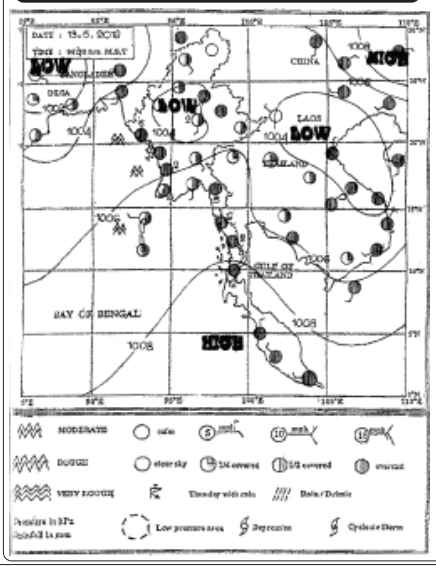
4:50 pm
8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:10 pm
9. Myanmar Language

7:00 pm
10. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
11. News
12. World's Stars
13. TV Drama Series
14. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 14th May, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	38/100	23/73	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	32/90	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
3	Kayin	33/91	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chin	24/75	15/59	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	38/100	25/77	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	40/104	23/73	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	32/90	24/75	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	36/97	25/77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
9	Magway	41/106	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	40/104	27/81	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	33/91	24/75	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	36/97	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
13	Rakhine	32/90	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	28/82	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	30/86	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	36/97	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	38/100	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	40/104	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	36/97	25/77	Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	40/104	27/81	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Tanintharyi Region, fairly widespred in Lower Sagaing Region and Mon State, isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Southern Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and about May average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (43°C), Myingyan, NyaungOo and Minbu (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (2.21) inches, Bilin (1.97) inches, Kyeikkhame (1.93) inches and Launglon (1.34) inches.
Bay Inference	Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Seas will be moderate in Myanmar water.
Outlook for sub-sequent two days	Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Juventus completes the Serie A season unbeaten following home win over Atalanta

ROME, 13 May—The Bianconeri's 3-1 victory means they have become only the third team in Italian history not to lose a single game all season, and the first in a 38-game campaign.

Juventus beat Atalanta 3-1 in its final league game of the season to record only the third ever unbeaten campaign in Serie A history.

Goals from Luca Marrone, departing club captain Alessandro Del Piero and Andrea Barzagli defeated Stefano Colantuono's side and saw the Bianconeri record their 38th game this term without defeat. They become the first team to complete the season unbeaten in a 20-team Serie A, with Perugia chalking up the first such record in a 30-game campaign in 1978-79 and AC Milan's 1991-92 achievement coming over 34 matches.

Juve has won 23 and drawn 15 of its 38 games this term. Including the club's 2-2 draw against Napoli on the final day of last season, the team is now unbeaten in 39 matches stretching back to a 1-0 defeat at Parma on May 15, 2011.

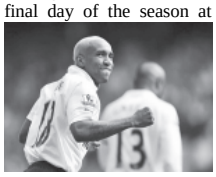
Antonio Conte is yet to preside over a loss since taking over as Juventus coach last May, with a 2-1 defeat to Milan in the Coppa Italia semifinal second leg the team's only loss over 90 minutes, and even then a 2-2 draw after extra time saw the team progress to next week's final against Napoli in Rome.

The departing Del Piero was given a fantastic ovation when he was substituted in the 57th minute, spending several minutes taking the fans' applause as he made a lap of honor with the game still being played.—*Internet*

Juventus' forward Alessandro Del Piero holds the Italian Serie A trophy, the Scudetto, after their match against Atalanta at Juventus stadium in Turin.

Spurs beat Fulham but finish fourth

LONDON, 13 May—Tottenham Hotspur had to settle for fourth place in the Premier League table despite beating Fulham 2-0 on the final day of the season at White Hart Lane.



Emmanuel Adebayor got Spurs off to a dream start when he opened the scoring in only the second minute before Jermain Defoe doubled their lead soon after the hour mark, but the Lilywhites were unable to secure the final automatic Champions League place after local rivals Arsenal won 3-2 at West Bromwich Albion.—*Internet*

Chelsea sign off with win over Rovers

LONDON, 13 May—Chelsea will head off to the Champions League final in good heart after rounding off their Premier League campaign with a 2-1 victory over Blackburn Rovers at Stamford Bridge.—*Internet*

Chelsea's Didier Drogba (R) hugs teammate John Terry after their English Premier League soccer match against Blackburn Rovers at Stamford Bridge in London May 13, 2012.

Chelsea	2 - 1	Blackburn
Everton	3 - 1	Newcastle
Man City	3 - 2	QPR
Norwich	2 - 0	Aston Villa
Stoke	2 - 2	Bolton
Sunderland	0 - 1	Man Utd
Swansea	1 - 0	Liverpool
Tottenham	2 - 0	Fulham
West Brom	2 - 3	Arsenal
Wigan	3 - 2	Wolves

Maize, sesame plantations thriving in rains

YEDASHE, 13 May—Strong winds and heavy rains hit Yedashe Township of Bago Region at 7.30 pm on 7 May.

Due to heavy rains, torrent rains flowed into the farmlands and lakes in Yegon and Zeyathein village-tracts, east of Yeni, but there was no loss and waste. Generally, the farmlands on the east bank of Sittoung River are in good condition due to rains. Thus, main plantation such as maize and sesame plantations are thriving more.

At present, beans and pulses, maize, sesame, sunflower and paddy are thriving in the region. Enjoying the rain, the local farmers started their farming works.—*Myanma Alin*

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Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw calls on Japanese Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint met Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda at the PM's Office in Tokyo of Japan at 6.45 pm on 10 May.

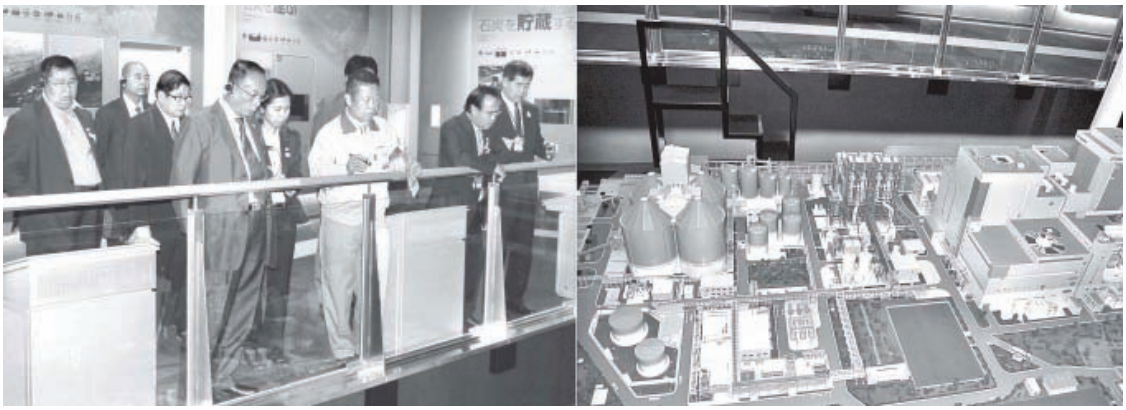
The Japanese Prime Minister said he welcomed national reconciliation process underway in Myanmar. He focused on Japan's economic policies towards Myanmar during the Myanmar President's visit to Japan. Japan would continue to cooperate in Myanmar's development works. Myanmar's economic development is important. He saw the signing of Japan-Myanmar investment pact as a critical task in which he sought support of the Hluttaw. The PM thanked State level officials and the Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association Chairman for long and established relations between the two countries. He guaranteed Japan's firm support in Myanmar's democracy, national reconciliation and peace making process.

The Speaker said the role of the Hluttaw is crucial in establishing democracy. All Myanmar MPs have committed to flourishing democracy in Myanmar. Only with democracy, could internal peace-making tasks be carried out. The government is striving for national reconciliation and implementing rural development plan for socio-economic development of the people. He thanked Japan for accepting Myanmar scholars for the country's human resources development. The relationship between Myanmar and Japan dated back to pre-Independence period of Myanmar and the diplomatic ties established since 1954 would soon enter 60 years.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint meets Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda at the PM's Office in Tokyo of Japan. MNA

He expressed his appreciation in even more strengthened relationship between the two friendly nations on the President's recent visit. He again thanked Japan for hospitability in his visit.—*MNA*

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw visits J Power, Isogo Coal-fired Power Plant



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint visits J Power, Isogo Coal-fired Power Plant in Yokohama of Japan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint on 10 May visited J Power, Isogo Coal-fired Power Plant in Yokohama of Japan.

The chairman of the company extended greetings to the delegation at briefing hall of the plant. The officials said the power plant applies sophisticated technologies and is eco-friendly.

The members of delegation raised questions and viewed round the power plant. The Speaker received Member of House of Representatives of Japan Mr Takeda Ryota at Hotel New Otani of Tokyo.

The meeting focused on further cementing Myanmar-Japan relationship.

At Omotenashi Resort, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Education, Health and Culture Committee and of Buddhist Sasana Nuggaha Association Dr Khin Shwe donated K 30 million and Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Mines and Natural Resources Committee U Nay Win Tun, Yen 100,000 to Kaba Aye Pagoda in Moji, north of Kyushu District in Japan through the managing director of the pagoda.

The delegation arrived at Narita Airport from Hotel New Otani of Tokyo where they stayed at 10.30 am on 11 May. They were seen off by Director-General of Japanese Upper House Office Mr Hanatani and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin and wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Tun Tun and families of embassy at the airport.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back in Yangon in the evening.—*MNA*

City wins English title for 1st time in 44 years

MANCHESTER, 13 May—Manchester City staged a dramatic fightback to win the English title for the first time in 44 years on Sunday, with Sergio Aguero scoring the side's second goal in stoppage time to clinch a 3-2 victory over Queens Park Rangers. Aguero's goal in the fourth minute of stoppage time snatched the trophy from holder Manchester United on goal difference. The 2010 champions had been top when its game at Sunderland ended in a 1-0 win.

Pablo Zabaleta had put City on course for the title with a 39th minute-goal, but Djibril Cisse levelled for QPR three minutes into the second half after being gifted possession by Joleon Lescott.

City had a man advantage after QPR captain Joey Barton was sent off in the 55th, but Jamie Mackie managed to head the visitors in front. City's expensively assembled squad had been facing its first loss at home since December 2010, but substitute Edin Dzeko sparked the recovery by heading in a corner in the second minute of stoppage time.

There was still time for one final moment of drama in an unpredictable season when Aguero drove home the winner. As the final whistle blew, thousands of City fans poured onto the pitch and blue smoke wafted around the stadium.—*Internet*