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Friday, 18 May, 2012

**Our Three Main
National Causes**

* Non-disintegration of the Union * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Assistant Secretary General of United Nations Development Program

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by United Nations Development Program-UNDP Assistant Secretary General and Director of Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific Mr Ajay Chhibber at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace here at 4.30 pm today.

At the call, they cordially discussed drawing and implementation of a project on resuming UNDP regular programmes and environmental conservation tasks, providing of technical assistance for upgrading legislative and executive skills, implementation of assistance tasks worth US\$ 144 million under a three-year project starting 2013 and opening of United Nations Development Program branch office in Myanmar.

Present at the call together with Vice-President of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, departmental heads and officials.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar cordially shakes hands with UNDP Assistant Secretary General and Director of Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific Mr Ajay Chhibber at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and Pacific

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General and Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and Pacific Dr Nafis Sadik and party at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 4 pm today.

Their discussions focused on more international aids for Myanmar's health sector and promotion of knowledge dissemination works, mutual exchange of HIV/AIDS information and data, provision of technological expertise, and required amendments to health sector laws.

Also present at the call together with Vice-

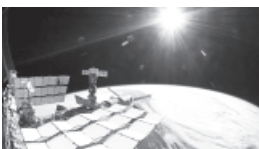


President Dr Sai Mauk Kham were Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Maung Myint,

Social Welfares, Relief and Resettlement Deputy Minister U Phone Swe, departmental heads and personnel.—MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General and Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and Pacific Dr Nafis Sadik and party at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace.—MNA

**WWF report:
By 2050 we
will need 3
planets**



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**Japan's
Kiyotake to
join
Nuremberg**



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**South Korea
drop Arsenal
striker Park
Chu-Young**



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PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 May, 2012

Customer satisfaction

We all know that our tourism sector has many prospects as almost all the destinations of Myanmar are still unspoiled generally more fascinating and captivating than their foreign counterparts which have been already frequented by a large number of global vacationers since a number of years ago.

Nagpali beach, Bagan, Lake Inlay or Shwedagon Pagoda may be famous in the world, but many of our tourist attractions are unknown to global market until now even through they

have all the capacities and features required by an internationally recognized destination.

For instance, we have Ngwesaung and Chaungtha beaches in the western coast of Ayeyawady Division facing the Bay of Bengal which in reality are as enchanting as the Ngapali in beauty and serenity of the white sands and the blue waters. Another bonanza is these two are not far from Yangon, the main gateway to Myanmar for all visitors coming on business, diplomatic missions or pleasure trips.

We have another Bagan-like place at MraukOo in the northern part of Rakhine State a coastal region also bordering the Bay in the west. There many ancient pagodas are still standing as the proof of local people's deep devotion to Buddhism since the birth of their civilization. The

interesting part is that the designs and architectural features of these religious edifices including Shitthoung and Koethoung stupas are totally different from their Bagan counterparts although they all are representing the Lord Buddha.

What's more we have wonderful parks such as Khakaborazi, Hukaung valley, Alaungdaw Kassapa, and so on where visitors can touch the unspoiled natural splendors the world can offer best.

With reforms going on well in the country, we are developing the services and facilities directly or indirectly linked to the smokeless industry which will be one of the main sources of income for the country through customer satisfaction. Without customer satisfaction, the industry cannot develop.

Union I & C Minister attends meeting on preservation of nationalities' cultural heritage



Union Minister for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan speaking at meeting on preservation of nationalities' cultural heritage.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—A coordination meeting on preservation of nationalities' cultural heritage was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Culture yesterday

morning, attended by Union Minister for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, culture ministers from the states, high-ranking

officials, performing arts technicians and others.

In his address, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan touched upon smarter ways to be sought for category of performing arts

competitions to be held in the states in preservation of nationalities' cultural

heritage and marking systems, and integration of nationalities cultural arts into traditional cultural performing arts competitions of the central level.

This was a general round of discussions which mainly included further cementing friendship and fostering national solidarity through the integration of nationalities culture into traditional cultural performing arts competitions of central level which are held with the aim of preserving the nationalities culture and matters on returning of the already-discussed smarter ways not later than by the end of May.

Afterwards, culture ministers from the states,

high-ranking officials and representatives reported on preparations for holding of nationalities culture performing arts in the respective states, findings over the discussion of the Union Minister and ways for cooperation with the central level competitions.

Next, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin arrangement to fulfil the needs and technicians and discussed matters on leading a helping hand.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Union Minister.

After the meeting, the Union Minister cordially greeted those present on the occasion.

MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister inspects development undertakings



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe receives Senior Representative Mr Katsuyoshi Saito of JICA and party.—MNA

YANGON, 17 May—Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe this morning attended the opening of Gamonepwin (Theingyi Market) at the corner of Shwedagon Pagoda Road and Maha Bandoola Street in Latha Township.

He also inspected construction of Abbot Training School in Ward 42

of Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

It is estimated that the construction of the school will cost over K 2900 million.

At the government office of the region, the Region Chief Minister received a delegation led by Senior Representative Mr Katsuyoshi Saito of JICA and discussed cooperation in water supply, sewerage

system and proper flow of water in Yangon.

Also present at the call were Region Minister for Development Affairs Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint, Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin and Region Government Secretary U Than Aung.

MNA

Union Health Minister meets Special Adviser to UN Secretary General

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin held a meeting with Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General with additional responsibilities as a Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific Dr. Nfis Sadik and party at his office here this evening.

During the meeting, Dr Nfis Sadik gave him congratulations on achievement for combating HIV which is now on a decreasing rate in collaboration with other organizations. They concentrated on matters related to receiving enough AIDS treatment and promoting preventive measures for those who may suffer from AIDS.

Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin received Deputy Director Mr. Yves Guicquero of France Development Agency and Regional Director Mr. Etienne Woitellier at his office here at 9:00 am, and made a discussion with Vice President for Asia at the US Chamber of Commerce and Director for Southeast Asia Mr. John Goyer at the same venue at 10:00 am today.

At the meeting with the French guests, matters related to cooperation with NGOs in advancing incompleting rural health care and maternal and child care in Myanmar were discussed reviewing conditions on cooperation with hospitals, universities in France in treatment and training tasks.

On the occasion of the discussion with US Chamber of Commerce, both sides concentrated on matters related to rural health care tasks, cooperation with NGOs and religious organizations in health care, building a strong foundation for rural health care, water resources and sanitation tasks, as well as repairing facilities of health departments.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Director-General of the Health Department Dr Tun Naing Oo, Director-General of the Medical Science Department Dr Than Zaw Myint and officials concerned.

MNA



A general view of the Bushehr main nuclear reactor, 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran, on 21 August, 2010.—REUTERS

Putin, Medvedev discuss issues related to G8 summit

MOSCOW, 17 May—Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Wednesday discussed issues related to the upcoming Group of Eight (G8) summit, the Kremlin Press service said.

However, the press service didn't reveal details about the meeting between Putin and Medvedev.

Earlier, Putin declined the invitation to the G8 summit due to his "responsibilities" to deal with the formation of a new government. Medvedev,

instead of Putin, will attend the summit in the United States on 18 to 19 May.

Also on Wednesday, Moscow's *Kommersant* business daily said that US President Barack Obama and Medvedev will hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G8 summit in Camp David.

The newspaper, quoted a source from the Russian government, said that Obama was likely to drop the missile defence issues and bilateral economic relations from the agenda due to Putin's absence.

These issues will be discussed at a meeting between Obama and Putin in June during the G20 summit in Mexico, the newspaper said.

Medvedev submitted to Putin the lineup of a new government on Tuesday, without making the names of the future ministers public.

Local media said that the appointments were expected to be finalized only upon Medvedev's return from the G8 summit.

Xinhua



Rescue personnel transfer the injured in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 16 May, 2012. Two subway trains crashed into each other on Wednesday morning in Sao Paulo, leaving at least 33 injured.—XINHUA

Four pilots killed, five injured in plane crash in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 May—At least four pilots were killed and five people were injured when two Pakistan Air Force (PAF) trainer planes crashed after bumping into each other on a training mission on Thursday morning, army and police sources said.

PAF confirmed, in a short statement following the incident, the death of all the four pilots on the two planes, and said an inquiry had been ordered.

Muhammad Hussain Khan, District Police Officer of Nowshera where the crash

took place, said five people on the ground were also injured in the incident.

The crash took place at about 10:20 am local time when two PAF trainers planes hit each other in the air while on a routine training flight over the Rashakai area of Nowshera, a district lying some 100 kilometres northwest of the country's Capital Islamabad.

One plane crashed into the field while another came down on a house in a residential area of Rashakai. Huge fire erupted in the

residential area following the plane crash. Rescue team and fire fighters were called in following the crash.

The injured have been rushed to nearby hospital. Conditions and identities of the injured are not known at this moment.

The two planes hit each other in the air during the training mission after they took off from a PAF air base in Risalpur, a neighbouring town lying less than ten kilometres to the north of Nowshera, said police.

Iran nuclear output seen steady before Baghdad talks

VIENNA, 17 May—Iran is installing more centrifuges in an underground plant but does not yet appear to be using them to expand higher-grade uranium enrichment that could take it closer to producing atom bomb material, Western diplomats say.

They say Iran's production of uranium refined to a fissile concentration of 20 percent, which it started two years ago, seems to have remained steady in recent months after a major escalation of the work in late 2011 and early this year.

Progress in Iran's controversial nuclear programme is closely watched by the West and Israel as it could determine the time the Islamic Republic would need to build nuclear bombs, should it decide to do so.

Getting Iran to stop the higher-level enrichment is expected to be a priority for world powers when they meet with Iran in Baghdad next week in an attempt to start resolving the decade-old dispute over Teheran's atomic ambitions.

"It is still going strong. I hear it is unchanged," one diplomat accredited to the UN nuclear watchdog, which regularly inspects Iran's declared atomic sites, said about the country's most sensitive nuclear activity.

"But with installation work going on, at some point there will be an increase."

Teheran took a big step towards the capability of making nuclear weapons material after a previous attempt at diplomacy failed when, spurning UN demands to halt all enrichment, it instead ramped up uranium processing to 20 percent purity.

That provoked the West to impose crushing sanctions on its banks and oil exports.

A UN nuclear report published in February showed Iran trebling output of 20 percent uranium since late 2011 after starting up production at the Fordow underground plant near the Shi'ite Muslim holy city of Qom and later increasing it.—Reuters



People watch a overturn bus at a village of Chadoora in Badgam District, 32 kilometres southwest of Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, on 16 May, 2012. Two persons were killed and 37 injured when the bus skidded off the road and fell into a gorge.—XINHUA

Nine people wounded in bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 May—Nine people, including security members, were injured on Wednesday in separate bomb attacks in eastern and central Iraq, the police said.

In Iraq's eastem province of Diyala, a roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in the City of Jalawla, some 150 km northeast of Baghdad, injuring four policemen, a provincial police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Iraqi security forces cordoned off the scene and found another roadside bomb which exploded later and wounded a police explosive expert as he was trying to defuse it, the source said.

Also in Jalawla, a boy was injured when a home-made bomb hidden in a garbage container detonated near his house, the source added.

In central Iraq, gunmen blew up a bomb planted at an under- construction medical center in Baghdad's southern district of Doura, wounding three construction workers, an Interior Ministry source anonymously told *Xinhua*.

Xinhua

Nearly 40 injured in Brazil subway crash

SAO PAULO, 17 May—About 40 passengers were injured on Wednesday when two subway trains collided in the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo, the city's Fire Department said.

The collision occurred at 10 am local time (1300 GMT) between the stations of Vila Carrao and Penha, both on Line 3 of Sao Paulo's underground transportation network. Line 3, an east-west link and with 18 stops, is one

of the system's most heavily used lines, carrying nearly a million commuters a day. The Fire Department said the trains collided along a segment of the track that runs above ground, allowing most of the passengers to exit the cars without the help of rescue workers.

Two of the injured were in serious condition and taken to hospital, having suffered loss of blood and possible head trauma, but most had

only minor cuts and bruises, the department said. Thanks to the fact that both trains were advancing at a fairly low speed when they crashed, there were no immediate fatalities, said Fire Department Captain Ricardo Peixoto. Further investigation over the cause of the accident is underway.

Xinhua

People transfer injured persons to a hospital in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, on 16 May, 2012. At least one person was killed and seven others were injured in a hand grenade attack at a hotel in Karachi on Wednesday.—XINHUA



Xinhua

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Supernova shows secrets of its brightness

CAMBRIDGE, 17 May—A NASA orbiting telescope has observed the first evidence of a supernova shock wave breaking through a cocoon of gas around the star, astronomers say.

The findings by the Chandra X-ray Observatory may help explain why some supernova explosions are more powerful than others, a release by the Chandra group at Harvard University reported on Tuesday.

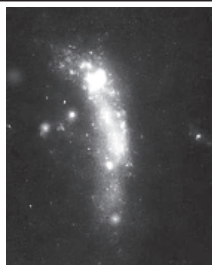
The supernova in a galaxy about 160 million light years from Earth was first spotted by astronomers on 3 Nov, 2010, and was one

of the most luminous that has ever been detected in X-rays, the researchers said.

In the first Chandra observation of the supernova, the X-rays from the explosion's blast wave were strongly absorbed by a cocoon of dense gas around the supernova formed by gas blown away from the massive star before it exploded.

In a second observation almost a year later, there was much less absorption of X-ray emission, indicating that the blast wave from the explosion had broken out of the surrounding cocoon.

This findings suggest



The supernova is the bright spot near the top of the image.
INTERNET

some unusually luminous supernovas are caused by the blast wave from their explosion ramming into the material around it, astronomers said.

Internet

Apple seeks outside help on OS X security



OS X Lion

CHICAGO, 17 May—Apple has asked Russian computer security company Kaspersky Labs to analyze its OS X operating system to improve its security, a Kaspersky official says.

Nikolai Grebennikov, chief technical officer at Kaspersky, said Apple is beginning to take steps to

take OS X security more seriously following the recent high-profile Flashback malware episode, arstecnica.com reported.

More than a half-million Macs were infected by Flashback thanks to a then-unpatched Java vulnerability in OS X.

"Mac OS is really

vulnerable, and Apple recently invited us to improve its security. We've begun an analysis of its vulnerabilities, and the malware targeting it," Grebennikov told *Computing News*.

"Our first investigations show Apple doesn't pay enough attention to security," Grebennikov said. "For example, Oracle closed a vulnerability in Java, which was a target for a major botnet, several months ago."

Security researchers have long argued Macs were only perceptibly "safer" because of their relatively low market share, but that hackers would eventually turn their attention to the Apple platform.

"Market share brings attacker motivation," Kaspersky Labs said in April. "Expect more drive-by downloads, more Mac OS X mass-malware."—Internet

WWF report: By 2050 we will need 3 planets

GENEVA, 17 May—A significant decline in biodiversity is hitting low-income countries least able to afford it, the World Wildlife Fund reported in Switzerland.

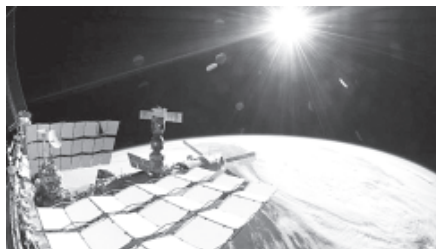
"Overall, biodiversity has declined by 28 percent around the world since 1970. But in low-income countries the loss is particularly important — it reaches 60 percent. The depletion of the natural systems is hitting hardest in countries that can least afford it," said Jim Leape, director general of WWF International, introducing the organization's 2012 Living Planet Report on Monday in Geneva.

The environmental organization's report, released every two years, looks at biodiversity around the world and at humanity's ecological footprint, the pressure put on land and water.

That footprint has increased significantly, WWF officials said.

"We are using 50 percent more resources than the earth can support. Today we are living as if we had 1 1/2 planets," Leape said.

"If we continue like this, by 2050 we will need three planets. Our pattern of consumption is unsustainable."



Earth seen from the International Space Station.

INTERNET

On average, the WWF said, high-income countries have an ecological footprint that is five times that of low-income ones.

The report came out five weeks ahead of the United Nations Sustainable Development Conference, or Rio+20, in Rio de Janeiro.

"The challenges underlined in the Living Planet Report are clear," Leape told Inter Press Service. "Rio+20 can and must be the moment for governments to set a new course towards sustainability."

Internet

Eye retina implant can restore vision

PALO ALTO, 17 May—Tiny solar-panel-like cells implanted in the eye may someday restore sight to people blinded by certain types of degenerative eye diseases, US scientists say.

Researchers at Stanford University said goggles equipped with a miniature camera display images on a

using laser pulses of near-infrared light to a photovoltaic silicon chip — one-third as thin as a strand of hair — implanted beneath the retina, a Stanford release reported.

Electric currents from the chip would then trigger signals in the retina which would flow to the brain,

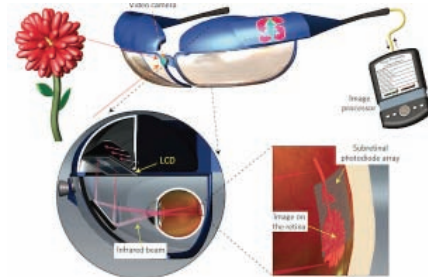
Daniel Palanker said. "But instead of the current flowing to your refrigerator, it flows into your retina."

Using near-infrared light to transmit images avoids the need for any wires and cables inside the eye, as some other experimental implants require, making the device thin and easily implantable, researchers said.

"The current implants are very bulky, and the surgery to place the intraocular wiring for receiving, processing and power is difficult," Palanker said. The Stanford device has virtually all of the hardware incorporated externally into the goggles, he said.

"The surgeon needs only to create a small pocket beneath the retina and then slip the photovoltaic cells inside it," he said.

The proposed prosthesis is intended to aid people suffering from retinal degenerative diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration, the foremost cause of vision loss in North America, the researchers said.—Internet



Tiny solar-panel-like cells implanted in the eye may someday restore sight to people blinded by certain types of degenerative eye diseases, US scientists say.

INTERNET

liquid crystal microdisplay embedded in the glasses, similar to what's used in video goggles for gaming. The images would be beamed from the LCD into the eyes

enabling a patient to regain vision, researchers said. "It works like the solar panels on your roof, converting light into electric current," professor of ophthalmology

Britain to use sound 'weapon' in Olympics?

LONDON, 17 May—A device that can send verbal warnings over a long distance or emit a beam of pain-inducing noise will be used in London during the Olympics, officials said.

Britain's Ministry of Defence confirmed the US-made long range acoustic device, spotted attached to a landing craft on the Thames



The LRAD unit can be used to "peacefully resolve uncertain situations."—INTERNET

River, will be available for use in the summer games.

The LRAD 1000Xi is "an effective long range communications system that broadcasts focused, highly intelligible, multi-language messages, instructions and warnings over distances up to 3,000 metres (1.8 miles) to peacefully resolve uncertain situations," a spokesman for the San Diego-based LRAD Corp said.

The corporation denies it is a weapon and the Ministry announced it would be used "primarily in the loud hailer mode," the BBC reported on Saturday.

While some versions of the LRAD can produce painful, deafening sound levels of 150 decibels, they can also be used to broadcast

verbal warnings such as ordering crowds to disperse, officials said.

The device, which has been used by the US Army for crowd control in Iraq, has also successfully been used aboard ships to repel Somali pirates.

"As part of the military contribution to the policed security effort to ensure a safe and secure games, a broad range of assets and equipment is being used by our armed forces," a Ministry of Defence spokesman said.

"This includes the LRAD, which will be deployed during the Olympic Games primarily to be used in the loud hailer mode as part of the measures to achieve a maritime stop on the Thames."—Internet

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Back pain therapy often yields early benefits

SYDNEY, 17 May — People who receive treatment for chronic and acute low-back pain show significant improvement in the first six weeks, but may still have some pain and disability after one year, according to a new study. Researchers analyzed data from 33 studies that included more than 11,000 patients to learn more about how treatment affects low-back pain. Their findings appear in the 14 May online edition of CMAJ, the journal of the Canadian Medical Association.

"Our review confirms the broad finding of previous reviews that the typical course of acute low-back pain is initially favorable: there is a

marked reduction in mean pain and disability in the first six weeks," Dr Christopher Maher, director of the musculoskeletal division at the George Institute for Global Health of the University of Sydney in Australia, said in a journal news release.

"Beyond six weeks, improvement slows and thereafter only small reductions in mean pain and disability are apparent up to one year," he added.

One year after beginning treatment, the typical improvement in pain intensity was about 90 percent for patients who had acute low-back pain and about 50 percent for those who had chronic low-back pain, the

investigators found.

"There is both good and bad news in our review. It is great that people improve with care, but arguably there is room to do better, particularly for people with persistent low-back pain," Maher said.

"Generally, when people see results like this they want to blame the clinician, but I think that is short-sighted," he added. "One of the principal reasons we have not made more progress in the back pain field is that research agencies do not take back pain research seriously."

Around the world, back pain research is hugely underfunded relative to the burden of the disease. It's time for that to change. —Internet



A Chinese man hunts for minnows in a heavily polluted canal in Beijing's central business district on 30 April, 2010. A recent Chinese government survey of the country's environmental problems has shown water pollution levels in 2007 were more than twice the government's official estimates. The data presented by Vice Environment Protection Minister Zhang Lijun, revives questions about the quality of Chinese official statistics and the effectiveness of a government push for cleaner growth after decades of unbridled growth. —INTERNET

Eye changes may predict heart disease in Blacks with diabetes

NEW JERSEY, 17 May — In black Americans with type 1 diabetes, narrowing of the small arteries in the eye's retina (retinal arteriolar narrowing) is associated with increased risk for cardiovascular disease, a new study finds.

"Retinal arteriolar narrowing has long been described as one of the characteristic changes associated with hypertension [high blood pressure] and cardiovascular disease," Dr Monique Roy, of the Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual

Science at the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey Medical School, and colleagues wrote as background information in the study, which is published in the May issue of the journal Archives of Ophthalmology.

The researchers looked at information on 468 black patients with type 1 diabetes and followed up after six years. During that time, 59 patients developed cardiovascular disease (37 with heart disease or stroke and 22 with lower extremity arterial disease),

and 79 developed high blood pressure. The study authors found that retinal arteriolar narrowing at the start of the study was significantly and independently associated with the development of cardiovascular disease, lower extremity arterial disease, and all-cause death.

In addition, the researchers found that having larger diameter retinal arteries was associated with an increased risk of high blood pressure, they noted in the news release. —Internet

Most satisfied with air, water quality

WASHINGTON, 17 May — People living in Europe and Asia are most satisfied with their air and water quality, with Hong Kong the least, surveys of 140 countries indicated. The Gallup surveys found a median of 75 percent of adults from 140 countries said they were satisfied with their air quality, while a median of 68 percent were satisfied with water quality.

Ninety-five percent in Ireland said they were satisfied with their air quality, followed by New Zealand, Australia, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Singapore, Germany, United Kingdom,

India and Tajikistan. The countries least satisfied with their air quality were Hong Kong, Angola, Malta, Iraq, Haiti, Lebanon, Albania, Russia and Ukraine.

Ratings of water quality were highest across wealthier countries in Europe, the Americas and developed Asia.

Specifically, 97 percent of residents in the United Kingdom were satisfied with water quality, 96 percent in Germany, 96 percent in Sweden, 96 percent in Denmark and 95 percent in Singapore.

Perceived water quality was generally lowest in sub-

Saharan Africa, the Middle East and countries that were formerly in the Soviet Union. Seven of the 10 countries where residents are least satisfied are in sub-Saharan Africa, where residents sometimes have to walk miles for water, and waterborne and water-related diseases such as cholera are common, Gallup officials said.

The telephone and face-to-face interviews of 1,000 adults, age 15 and older, were conducted in more than 140 countries in 2011. The surveys' margin of error ranged from 2 percentage points to 5.1 percentage points. —Internet

Doctors mull value of medical tattoos



TORONTO, 17 May — The Canadian Medical Association has expressed concern over the growing trend of people having their medical conditions tattooed on their bodies.

Since 1956, millions of people in Canada and the United States with medical conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy or drug allergies have used wrist or ankle bracelets or necklaces provided by the MedAlert Foundation.

However, with the growing popularity of tattoos, the CMA said in a report on Monday medical information

"appears to be a trend on the rise," Postmedia News reported. Robert Ridge, chief executive officer of the Canadian MedAlert Foundation, told Postmedia that tattoos, while considered stylish by some, don't have the potentially life-saving capability of the organization's comprehensive historical database on users.

"The vast majority of our members' information changes over time, and a tattoo isn't conducive to changing information — it's rather permanent," he said.

Internet

German economy powers on, French growth evaporates

BERLIN, 17 May — Germany's economy confounded expectations by posting robust growth in the first quarter of the year while France could summon up none at all and Italy slid further into recession, data showed on Tuesday. Gross domestic product in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, rose by 0.5 percent on the quarter, bouncing back from a 0.2 percent slide in the last three months of 2011. France's economy stagnated, although it grew slightly at the end of last year.

"This is a very strong comeback. The decline in the fourth quarter was not the start of a recession but just an economic dip," Joerg Kraemer, economist at Commerzbank, said of the German figures. "Germany is faring better than the rest of the euro zone. But I do not believe that it will continue at this speed." The yawning gap between Europe's largest economy and its peers will fuel an austerity versus growth debate in the currency bloc as it teeters on the edge of a new

crisis, again centered on Greece. The figure for the euro zone as a whole, due at 05:00 am EDT (0900 GMT), is forecast to show it shrank by 0.2 percent, following a 0.3 percent contraction in the last three months of 2011 — putting it back into recession.

Germany's strong showing could just allow the currency bloc to skirt recession and it certainly bolstered markets which were battered on Monday by growing fears that Greece will plunge Europe back into crisis by leaving the euro zone.

The FTSEurofirst of top

European shares climbed 0.5 percent in response, safe haven German government bond futures dipped and the euro recovered some poise. A Reuters poll of 41 economists had forecast German growth of 0.1 percent on the quarter. The actual figure beat even the highest forecast. Strength was broadly based with both exports and domestic consumption gaining ground. France, by contrast, was held back by weak household demand and slowing exports.

"There was no good surprise," said Philippe Waechter, chief economist at

Natixis Asset Management of the French data. "There was weak consumption, no investment." Germany is the exception to a euro zone picture which shows nearly all its constituent parts back in recession or flirting with it.

Italy's economy contracted 0.8 percent in the first quarter, the third consecutive quarterly decline and the steepest for three years, according to preliminary data which were weaker than expectations.

The Dutch economy also contracted for a third consecutive quarter, shrinking 0.2 percent.

Data released two weeks ago showed Spain has already succumbed to recession as it struggles to reduce its budget deficit and shore up a banking sector beset with bad property debts. Greece, still without a government nine days after elections as its political parties argue about whether to rip up its bailout program, is in its fifth consecutive year of recession, which is tantamount to a depression.

Reuters



A worker assembles the new Porsche 911 sports car at the Porsche factory in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen on 24 January, 2012. —INTERNET

Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes dies at 83



Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes.—INTERNET

MEXICO CITY, 17 May—Carlos Fuentes, one of the best-known novelists and essayists in the Spanish-speaking world, passed away at a hospital in the Mexican capital on Tuesday. He was 83.

The death of Fuentes came as a surprise to many as he was believed to be in a generally good health condition and was not believed to be suffering from any illness. The cause of death was not immediately released, but some Mexican news organizations said Fuentes had been checked into a hospital on Monday evening after suffering heart problems.

The famed author died at Mexico City's Hospital Angeles del Pedregal.

Considered the father of the modern novel in Mexico, Fuentes was born to Mexican parents in Panama on 11 November, 1928, but moved to

Mexico City at the age of 16 before becoming a naturalized citizen. His work is known to be one of the most influential in Latin America and in Spanish-language literature, although he never received the Nobel Prize.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon, through his Twitter account, expressed sadness following Fuentes' death. "I deeply lament the death of our dear and admired Carlos Fuentes, universal Mexican writer. Rest in Peace," he wrote on his verified Twitter account.

Mexican Interior Secretary Alejandro Poiré Romero also expressed his condolences on behalf of the Mexican government. "The death of Carlos Fuentes is a great loss for our country. His thought and work are essential to understand the history of our country and the world," the Interior Ministry said in a statement, urging everyone to keep reading his work.

Some of Fuentes' most important works include 'The Most Transparent Region' (1958), 'Aura' (1962), 'The Death of Artemio Cruz' (1962), and 'The Old Gringo' (1985), which was made into a film starring Jane Fonda and Gregory Peck.—Internet

Chinese, Polish DMs vow to enhance military ties

WARSAW, 17 May—Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met with his Polish counterpart Tomasz Siemoniak here on Wednesday, with both sides pledging to boost bilateral military ties.

During the meeting, Liang, also a Chinese state councilor, said it is in the interests of both nations to boost bilateral military ties, which is also conducive to regional and world peace and stability.

Noting the Sino-Polish relations have witnessed sound development over the past years, Liang said bilateral military ties, as an important part of bilateral relationship, have also grown rapidly with

military exchanges and cooperation at various levels having been strengthened.

China stands ready to work with Poland to advance practical exchanges and cooperation in such areas as high-level contacts, military drills, personnel training and military culture in a bid to promote the development of their military ties and contribute to the China-Poland strategic partnership, he said.

Siemoniak, for his part, said Liang's visit was the first by a Chinese defence minister in 57 years and that its positive effect will go beyond the scope of bilateral military ties.

Poland is willing to make concerted efforts with China

to promote mutual understanding and trust and enhance exchanges and



Polish Defence Minister Tomasz Siemoniak (L) meets with visiting Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie in Warsaw, on 16 May, 2012.—XINHUA

cooperation in a broad range of areas so as to upgrade their military ties, he said.

Liang arrived here Tuesday for an official

goodwill visit. Poland is the last leg of Liang's three-nation tour, which has already taken him to the United States and Latvia.—Xinhua

New Zealand closes embassy in Sweden due to budget cuts

WELLINGTON, 17 May—The New Zealand government on Wednesday announced it will close its embassy in the Swedish Capital of Stockholm as a result of budget cuts required among diplomatic posts in Europe.

New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully said the closure of

its Stockholm embassy will be accompanied by other measures, including moving into less expensive accommodation, that will save the government about USD 10 million per year among its diplomatic posts in Europe.

"New Zealand enjoys an excellent relationship with Sweden and with its Scandinavian neighbours,

but in today's world it is not always necessary to have a diplomatic presence to maintain such a relationship," McCully said. "Sweden does not have an embassy in New Zealand and I am confident that we can manage the relationship through an accreditation."

The Stockholm embassy was opened by the Labour

government of Helen Clark in 2008 but was downsized just months later by the new and current government of Prime Minister John Key, who leads the National Party. "The move is part of a series of decisions that will enable the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to meet the government's expectations of a USD 24 million efficiency dividend and then manage within a flatline budget for the next two years," McCully added.

Internet

GPS-style gadget could steer shoppers through maze-like shopping malls

LONDON, 17 May—Researchers have come up with a navigation system, which works indoors, to guide shoppers through the winding corridors of large shopping centres and complexes.

The 'shop nav' system turns smartphones into miniature guides that leads users to the outlet they need via the quickest route.

The system downloads three dimensional plans via the Internet and then 'guides' the shoppers to their destinations inside shopping malls. Engineers leading the project have been funded by the German government. The team has designed an interior GPS-style system that can be operated from an everyday smart phone. It can also work 'on the go' by scanning a QR code on the front entrance of a shopping mall or other building. QR codes, the small, square boxes of barcode-style patterns, have become increasingly popular way for companies to put out promotional information or a competition.—Internet



US President Barack Obama speaks alongside David Mazza (L) and Casey Patten (C), co-owners and founders of Taylor Gourmet, during a roundtable discussion with small business owners at the restaurant in Washington, DC, on 16 May, 2012. INTERNET

A third of wildlife has vanished

LONDON, 17 May—The world's wildlife has fallen by almost a third over the past 40 years, according to a new landmark research.

According to the research, in some parts the figure is much higher. Losses are estimated at more than 50 percent in the tropics, while in tropical freshwater ecosystems specifically, average losses may be as high as 70 percent, according to the 2012 edition of the Living Planet Report, produced by the WWF.

The study led by Michael McCarthy indicated typical high declines in the number of wild tiger, which has suffered a 70 percent decline in the size of populations, and 'Baiji', the freshwater dolphin from China's Yangtze river, which

appears to have become extinct in recent years, Independent reported.

However, in northern areas such as Europe and North America, wildlife populations are doing much better, indicating towards the amount of conservation that wealthy societies are able to afford.

"We're now in the danger zone, exceeding the planetary boundaries for natural capital," said David Nussbaum, chief executive of WWF-UK.

"If we continue to use up our planet's resources faster than it can replace them, soon we'll have exploited every available corner of the Earth. Thankfully it's not too late to reverse this trend, but we need to address this with the same urgency and

determination that we tackled the systemic financial crisis globally," he said.

"This report is like a planetary check-up and the results indicate we have a very sick planet. Ignoring this diagnosis will have major implications for humanity. We can restore the planet's health, but only through addressing population growth and over-consumption of resources," said Jonathan Baillie, conservation programme director with the Zoological Society of London.

The report has been released early so that the agenda for 'Rio Plus 20' can be set. 'Rio Plus 20' is the UN conference on sustainable development to be held in Rio de Janeiro next month.

Internet

NH lawmaker apologizes for Nazi slogan

CONCORD, 17 May—The New Hampshire Legislature has voted to readmit a lawmaker who used a Nazi slogan during a dispute.

Rep Steve Vaillancourt, a Republican from Manchester, said "Sieg Heil" on Tuesday after Speaker William O'Brien threatened him with removal, the New Hampshire Union Leader in Manchester reported. O'Brien, also a Republican, then ordered Vaillancourt taken out by the sergeant at arms.

The House approved his readmission to the chamber 238-103 on condition he apologize to both the body and O'Brien. Vaillancourt did so.

The dispute occurred while the House was debating a bill requiring voters to present photo identification.—Internet



Screens outside the Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Hollywood Blvd advertise for people to "Become a Fan" of the Theatre on Facebook is seen at the Los Angeles premiere of the film "What to Expect When You're Expecting," on 14 May, 2012, in Los Angeles. The social network's stock is expected to start trading on the Nasdaq stock exchange later this week after it's initial public offering.

INTERNET

Senator presses NRC on issues at Calif nuke plant

LOS ANGELES, 17 May—The chair of the US Senate's environment committee pressed federal regulators Tuesday to disclose details about the design of the troubled steam generators at the San Onofre nuclear power plant, where a probe into tube

damage has kept the reactors sidelined for months. In a letter, Sen Barbara Boxer asked Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko for documentation on how the federal agency reviewed generator modifications, which might be the

culprit in vibration that has damaged hundreds of tubes inside the complex machines.

At issue is whether operator Southern California Edison sidestepped any federal requirements by conducting extensive design changes, a claim leveled by an environmental group that said the alterations are at the heart of the plant's problems.

The twin reactors, located along the coast between San Diego and Los Angeles, have been shut down for more than three months while investigators try to determine the cause of the unusual tube wear. "Concerns have been raised that design changes in the steam generators contributed to accelerated wear in tubes carrying radioactive water," Boxer, D-Calif, wrote in a similar letter to SCE parent Edison International that also requested documents from the company on the history of the equipment.—Internet



In this 30 June, 2011 file photo, beach-goers walk on the sand near the San Onofre nuclear power plant in San Clemente, Calif. A report commissioned by an environmental group warned on 15 May, 2012 that running California's San Onofre nuclear plant at reduced power would not resolve problems with badly worn tubing that have kept its twin reactors offline for more than three months, and might make it worse.

INTERNET

Old drums beat a path from history to Erykah Badu

LAGOS, 17 May—With a curved stick in one hand, a five-year-old Nigerian preschooler staggers as she tries to steady what's been slung from her shoulder: a drum and many generations of history.

"The children need to carry on our culture, our tradition, and you need to

catch them young," Aralola Olamuyiwa, popularly known as Ara, said after giving an hour-long lesson at a Lagos nursery and primary school on the talking drum.

The West African talking drum, an hour-glass-shaped instrument usually made of wood and animal

hide, is deeply embedded in the region's culture, having served as a means of communication long before phones, not to mention email and text messages.

But while it has lost its practical purpose, the talking drum is a long way from dying, having now been in-

corporated into not only traditional music, but also African hip-hop and the songs of global stars such as Erykah Badu.

Nigerian-born Sikiru Adepolu has gained acclaim for his talking drum expertise, in large part thanks to his collaborations with Grateful Dead percussionist Mickey Hart.

Ara is one of Nigeria's rare female talking drummers and has performed with Stevie Wonder and for the Queen of England. She visits schools teaching children to play, calling it "a way of preserving our heritage through our children who are going to be our tomorrow, our future."

Internet



Talking drummer Aralola Olamuyiwa, popularly known as Ara, teaches children how to play the talking drum in a private school in Lagos. She visits schools teaching children to play, calling it "a way of preserving our heritage through our children who are going to be our tomorrow, our future."—Internet

Singapore Airlines to halt Abu Dhabi, Athens routes on weak performance

SINGAPORE, 17 May—Singapore Airlines (SIA) will be suspending services to Abu Dhabi in the UAE and Athens in Greece as a result of sustained weak performance of both routes, SIA said in a Press release on Wednesday.

The last flights to both cities will depart from Singapore on 26 Oct 2012.

The decision to suspend services is a difficult one, as Athens has been served since 1972 and Abu Dhabi since 2006, SIA said.

The suspensions are in line with Singapore Airlines' policy to match capacity to prevailing market demand.

Customers holding

confirmed tickets issued prior to today for travel to and from Abu Dhabi and Athens after 26 Oct 2012 (27 Oct for the return Abu Dhabi-Singapore service) will be eligible for refunds, without administrative fees or penalties. This also applies to KrisFlyer redemption tickets. Efforts will be made to contact affected customers to offer alternative travel options.

SIA will continue to serve Dubai in the UAE. Connections to and from Athens are also possible on Star Alliance partner airlines via several of SIA's other European points.—Xinhua

Berlin airport opening delayed until 2013

BERLIN, 17 May—Berlin's new airport will not now open until 2013 due to fire regulations, German paper Bild reported on Wednesday, heaping further embarrassment on authorities who had said the hold-up would only stretch to three months.

The capital's long-awaited new airport had been due to open on 3 June, replacing two from the Cold War era. But just weeks before its launch date the operators said Berlin-Brandenburg airport would not be ready in time. Bild cited a letter from a building regulation agency to the airport's technical chief, Manfred Koertgen, warning that any interim safety measures would not suffice to secure approval.

"We won't be able to get a fully automatic system in place that quickly. That rules out an opening this year," an airport official told the paper. It would then make most sense to open the airport when airlines introduce their summer 2013 flight plan from end-March next year, added the official quoted by Bild. A spokesman for the airport declined to comment but noted that the Berlin-Brandenburg supervisory board was meeting later on Wednesday. "We expect that the board meeting will result in a time plan," he said.

The opening of what will be Germany's third largest airport after Frankfurt and Munich has been postponed once already.—Reuters



Indonesian wildlife officials and villagers view the body of a rare Sumatran elephant on road in a palm oil plantation in Aceh Jaya in Aceh Province on 1 May, 2012. A second dead Sumatran elephant has been found dead in Aceh Province on Tuesday.—Internet

Rare elephant found dead in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 May—A critically-endangered Sumatran elephant has been found dead in Indonesia's Aceh Province, an official said on Wednesday, the second death from suspected poisoning within a month.

Villagers found the carcass, missing its tusks, in a river in Aceh Jaya District on Tuesday, local forestry official Armidi told AFP.

The elephants are usually either killed by villagers, who regard the beasts as pests that destroy their plantations, or by poachers for their tusks.

"We went to the site on Tuesday evening and found the male elephant in a river located a kilometre (half a mile) away from a village," he said. It was thought to have been killed around four days earlier because it was beginning to decompose, he added.

"According to villagers, the elephant had entered a plantation and was lumbering unsteadily. We suspected it might have been poisoned," Armidi said, adding that investigations to determine the cause of death were ongoing.

"Villagers did not know who took its tusks," he added.

Environmental organization WWF earlier this month called on the government to investigate the death of an 18-year-old female

Sumatran elephant allegedly poisoned at an Indonesian oil palm plantation in the same district. WWF changed the Sumatran elephant's status from "endangered" to "critically endangered" in January, largely due to severe habitat loss driven by oil palm and paper plantations.

There are fewer than 3,000 Sumatran elephants remaining in the wild, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, marking a 50 percent drop in numbers since 1985.

Conflicts between humans and animals are increasing as people encroach on wildlife habitats in Indonesia, an archipelago with some of the world's largest remaining tropical forests.—Internet

Cambodia reports 1,500 cases of dengue fever-like CHIKV virus in last 12 months

PHNOM PENH, 17 May—Cambodia reported 1,500 cases of a new strain of dengue fever in the last twelve months, a Cambodian senior health official said on Wednesday, but no death case has been reported related to such virus.

The Chikungunya, or CHIKV, virus was firstly diagnosed in Cambodia in 1961 and had disappeared from the country for 50 years. Just in May last year, the disease had re-emerged and caused sickness to 1,500 people to date, Dr Char Meng Chhor, director of the National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, told Xinhua.

Since the re-occurrence in last May, the virus spread from provinces bordering Thailand to those bordering Vietnam, including Battambang, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, Kampong Speu, Kandal and Takeo.

"Preah Vihear has the highest rate of infection, up to 1,041 cases," he said.

"The CHIKV virus has similar symptoms of the fatal dengue fever, but it is less severe than that and does not lead to death," he said, adding that the disease is caused by tiger mosquitoes and often bursts out in rainy season. The disease causes pain on bones and muscles for a couple of months. However, the treatment of such symptom is relatively easy, compared with the dengue fever, by applying pain killing medicines, heat relief medicine and paracetamol.—Xinhua



Workers talk in the terminal building of the new Berlin-Brandenburg Airport outside Berlin on 12 May, 2012.

REUTERS

Union Minister for Labour and for SWRR meets special advisor to UNSG



Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi receives Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary General and Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and Pacific Dr Nafis Sadik.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary General and Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and Pacific Dr Nafis Sadik and party paid a call on Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi at the latter's office here this

morning.

Their discussions focused on public education works against HIV/AIDS being carried out by the Labour Ministry and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry, new social security board law and its effects, rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking

and children suffering from HIV/AIDS, and work plans under public-centered strategies in cooperation with international organizations.

Also present at the call were the director-general of Social Welfare Department and the general manager of Social Security Board.

MNA

Union Electric Power No. 2 Minister receives US, Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe received a delegation led by President and Chief Executive Officer Mr Nabil Y. Barakat of the US-based Wamar International Inc at his office here this morning.

At the meeting, they had a discussion on ensuring more power supply with the prompt repair of gas-fired power plants in Yangon to satisfy the power demand, repair of gas-fired power plants throughout the

country phase by phase, ensuring more power supply by moving gas-fired power plants in central Myanmar that are out of service to Yangon where they are to undergo necessary repair and upgrading of control systems.

Next, the Union Minister received a delegation led by Senior Project Manager Mr Nobuo Kuga of Project Management Department of Oriental Consultants Co Ltd of Japan.

At the meeting, they had

a discussion on feasibility study on better power supply in Yangon, matters on repair of distribution network in Yangon, upgrading of load dispatching centre and building of coal-fired power plant capable of generating megawatts ranging from 600 to 1200.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo, Managing Director of Electricity Supply Department U Myint Aung and officials.—MNA

YANGON, 17 May—A foreign delegation including International entrepreneurs called on the respective departmental officials at News Briefing Room of MICC in Nay Pyi Taw this afternoon.

The meeting focused on potentials of investments in construction, agriculture and irrigation, transport, education, health, hotel and tourism, mines, industrial and investment, energy, communication, livestock and fisheries sectors.

MNA



International entrepreneurs meet departmental officials at MICC

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Managing Director U Zaw Min Oo of News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

US-based Foreign Affairs magazine interviews Union Transport Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung gave an interview to Project Director Ms Alex Mori of US-based Foreign Affairs Magazine and party at his office here this noon.

In the interview, the

Foreign Affairs asked the Union Minister about the Transport Ministry's participation in political and economic reforms of Myanmar and its further measures, and current condition of foreign investment environment.

The magazine is reported to write a special feature on Myanmar as "Rethinking Myanmar: A New Strategic Partnership".

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Win Shein and personnel.

MNA

Union Hotels & Tourism Minister meets Thai Ambassador to Myanmar



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan receiving Thai Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan received Thai Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata at his office here this afternoon.

In his discussion, the Thai Ambassador congratulated Myanmar to be a host country for the 27th

SEA Games-2013, adding that Thailand is a country that hosted SEA Games for three times and has experiences in that regard, it is ready to provide Myanmar with necessary helps such as training Myanmar athletes at Thai sports training schools.

The Union Minister asked about scholarships for

human resources development after speaking that preparations for successfully holding the SEA Games and tasks for timely completion of sports grounds are being carried out.

At the call were Deputy Minister U Htay Aung, head of the office and departmental heads were also present.—MNA

Blood donated to mark Mothers' Day

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—As a gesture of honouring the Mothers' Day, Buddhist Yunnan Temple Board of Trustees organized blood donation ceremony for the first time in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 14 May morning.

It was attended by Medical Superintendent Dr U Win of Mandalay General Hospital, in-charge of National Blood Bank Pathologist Dr Daw Khin Sein Win, doctors, nurses, Chairman of the Temple Board of Trustees U Kyaw Sein, Vice-Chairman U Myint Naing, Secretary U San Hlaing, In-charge of the Relationship Dr Ye Aung and blood donors.

At the ceremony, Dr Daw Khin Sein Win accepted blood bags and K 500,000 donated by blood donors and gave medals and certificates of honour to blood donors.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Patron of Myanmar Libraries Foundation Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met the executive committee members led by Chairman of MLF U Maung Maung at the meeting hall of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road, Yangon, on 14 May afternoon.

Also present were MLF Vice-Chairman U Nyunt Swe and executive members U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology), Dr Chit San Win, U Maung Maung Oo (Hein Latt) and Dr Thant Thaw Kaung, departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Information.

MLF Chairman U Maung Maung reported on functions of the foundation, systematic spending of money from profits on respective sectors without reducing funds, providing of assistance for construction libraries in Yangon Region, assistance plans for libraries in Ayeyawady and Bago Regions and Chin State and plans for increasing the strength of the EC; Vice-Chairman on duties of heads of Township Information and Public Relations Departments, field trips of EC members, drawing of work programmes for 2012 and putting of travel experiences on promoting reading habit on record at the work coordination meeting; Dr Chit San Win on tasks of the foundation that should be carried out for long-term durability of libraries, dissemination of library techniques to the whole nation, maintenance of library buildings and getting the people to cultivate the reading habit as an effective work programme, appointments of mass education officers in regions and states, more assistance to be provided by the foundation for the people not only with financial strength but also for their knowledge; Executive Member U Maung Maung Oo (Hein Latt) on the needs for providing not only financial aid but also psychological aid by the foundation, purchase of good books from the literature scrutiny office (branch) by forming a book selection group, keeping lists of must read books in every library; Executive Member Dr Thant Thaw Kaung on importance of quality of libraries rather than quantity and placing of libraries in neat order like in other nations, mobilizing the people to really have the habit of reading by holding reading week for mother and reading week for father and keeping publications in taxis and the foundation's plan for holding book review; Vice-Chairman U Nyunt Swe on establishment of Myanmar Libraries Foundation for participation of libraries not only in villages but also in urban areas and providing of books only after being assessed and reviewed by the EC members.

In response, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said a demanding task has to be carried out until its success amidst difficulties. The ministry deeply thanks those responsible for the functions of the foundation for their time and physical and mental work with goodwill and patience. It is advisable that all discussions made today are to be reviewed. By doing so, tasks that should be carried out now, tasks that can be carried out and tasks that must be carried out in the long run will arise. The matter of extending the Executive Committee needs to be considered and those who can give their time to perform the duties with goodwill should be appointed. In this regard, appointments need young people as well as old people. Division of labour among EC members should be equal in respective states and regions, said the union minister.

He went on to say that at meetings in which coordination and decisions have to be made, it is better to seek decision of the majority. Officials who must act practically need to

Sustainability of libraries, need for people to really engage in reading and emergence of libraries in every village are the objectives to be realized by MLF



Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan addresses meeting with executive committee of Myanmar Libraries Foundation.—MNA

weigh up everything. In this way, it will be all right both at the meetings and in practical.

As regards the spending of money, it should be mainly focused on getting the rural people to cultivate the reading habit as second nature and creating a life-long learning society. They include donating books, building libraries and helping to boost reading habit. In addition, capital must be strong as the functions of the foundation must depend on interest of the funds and donation. So, it is necessary to increase the capital. At the same time, sustainability of the libraries, the need for the people to really engage in reading and emergence of libraries in every village are the objectives to be realized by the foundation. Therefore, money should be spent in really effective issues. All the EC members are to realize the set objectives as they have expected, urged the union minister.

The primary objective of the foundation is to build a library in each and every village, which is to be realized as a long-term plan. The funds available are to be used for places where libraries can actually be success. It is required that every village has a village and the villagers are inculcated with reading habit. Cultivation reading habit is of useless if there is no library and in turn libraries alone without encouragement of reading habit would not work. So, it needs to encourage reading habit of people and book review programmes while opening libraries in viable places.

The township level Information and Public Relations Departments in regions and state should be at least led by staff officers. So, measures will be taken to assign staff officers at township level departments. In addition, assignment of public educators or organizers by Libraries Foundation like in the past is something to be considered, calling for coordination of all as it is a long-term plan.

The sustainable development of a library depends on combination of software and hardware development. The former means book reviews, encouragement of reading habit, educative talks of public educators and literary talks of writers. Such measures are requested to be done as best as possible within the budget available. There are

uncompleted libraries in some places which are to be finished soonest with the funds of foundation, contribution of the region concerned, and the funds of the Information and Public Relations Department.

The primary concern for the rural libraries is to be able to put the suitable books on their book stands. Books donated are to be used effectively and books required are to be bought under thorough care. Programmes such as reading week for mother or father are advisable to be introduced to cultivate and encourage the reading habit of people. In some cases, big trees grow from little acorns. Myanmar reading month and nationwide reading campaign in addition to above-mentioned programmes should also be considered. There needs to cut the coat according to the cloth as there are urgent needs as well as time-taking plans.

Books distributed to regions are to be sent to the respective libraries, for which it has been directed to cooperate with staff of the regions concerned. The regions are so large in area that there usually emerges weakness in accessibility and coordination.

Today's discussions were focused on basic requirements for sustainable development of Libraries Foundation in other words village libraries and cultivation of reading habit of people. Further discussions are to be made in detail and plans short-term and long-term are to be laid down for viable projects.

With respect to their sustainable development, libraries need to adopt a system to be able to stand on its own with its funds. A principle has been laid down to invite cash contribution from donors who borrow books from the library. So, it needs to arouse the reading appetite of people first, and book-lending system is to be introduced after people really enjoy reading. Only then, can libraries across the nation be sustainable.

It is also urged to record the history of the foundation. It would be difficult to write the current situation later on. It is suggested to take steps since then as the foundation is supposed to survive long.

The meeting came to an end in the evening.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint speaking at Myanmar-New Zealand Track II Exchange of Views.

MNA

Myanmar-New Zealand hold talks

YANGON, 17 May—The Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Asia-New Zealand Foundation jointly

conducted Myanmar-New Zealand Track II Exchange of Views at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint delivered the welcoming remarks.

Senior representatives from Government and academic circles from Myanmar and New Zealand participated in the dialogue and exchanged views on current developments in political, economic and foreign relations in

Myanmar, current developments in New Zealand and the South Pacific, China-US relations in East Asia, South-Asia and India and developments in ASEAN and regional integration.

The Deputy Minister hosted a Welcoming Dinner in honour of the visiting New Zealand delegation at Padomma Restaurant in the evening.

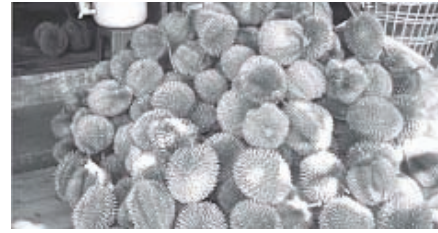
MNA

Durain, mangosteen marketable in Toungoo market

YEDASHE, 17 May—Durain and mangosteen fruits from Kyaukkyi Township and Thandaung region flow into the market in Toungoo as of early May.

Recently, durain and mangosteen from Pyu region and Bawgali region arrived at the fruit brokers.

These fruits are put on sales in the region in addition



to transporting them to Kinpantan Market, Myoma Market and Pyimana of Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.

Medium sized durain fruit is sold at K 1800 to K 3000 and mangosteen, K 100 to K 120 in the retail market.—Kyemon

Farmers prepare cultivation of pre-monsoon sesame

THAZI, 17 May—Although the days after 15th March, day temperature were high in Thazi Township, pre-Thingyan rains showered on 9 and 10 April. Thus, temperature of the township

declined and gem-kino flowers bloomed across the township.

Local farmers are now making preparations for cultivation of pre-monsoon sesame.—Kyemon

DISTRICT NEWS

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 N Kyaw Swe.

MYANMA ALIN



Dedaye Township gets new rural library

DEDAYE, 17 May—A ceremony to open Bawa Alinyang Library, built by contributions of the State and the people, was held in Mangaygyi Village of Dedaye Township in Pyapon District on 1 May afternoon.

At the ceremony, Dedaye Township Administrator U Tin Shwe, Staff Officer U Zaw Min of District Information and Public Relations Department and Mangaygyi Village-tract Administrator U Aung Kyaw

Oo formally opened the library.

After that, the Administrator of Dedaye Township made a speech.

The Staff Officer of District IPRD explained the purpose of opening the library and tasks for durability of library.

The township administrator, the staff officer of District Information and Public Relations Department and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Myint Myint Khaing donated books on various subjects. Officials accepted the donations.—Township IPRD



100th Year Anniversary Concert of Song Composer U Ba Thein (Mandalay) staged

MANDALAY, 17 May—The 100th Year Anniversary Concert of Veteran Song Composer U Ba Thein (Mandalay), organized by

Mandalay Myoma Amateur Band, was staged at the house of the band at the corner of 21st and 86th Streets in Pale Ngweyaung Ward of Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay at 7 pm on 3 May.

Vocalists presented songs composed by veteran song composer U Ba Thein (Mandalay) to the accompaniment of Myoma Band. Vocalist Than Myat

Soe recounted fine arts experiences of U Ba Thein (Mandalay).

Among the songs of U Ba Thein (Mandalay), Shweman Hsithot, Pontalokkan, Thugale, Myoma Thawunhlwa and Turiya Lulin are still famous.

Song composer U Ba Thein (Mandalay) passed away at aged 99 years on 30 January 2010.

Ko Ko Gyi (Mandalay)



Officials view harvesting of Palethwe hybrid paddy in Taikkyi Township.

Creek, drains, lakes dredged in Dalla for fresh water supply

DALLA, 17 May—Drains and creeks in Dalla are being dredged in Dalla for supply of fresh water with the use of two backhoes.

On 10 May morning, officials supervised the works.

At present, 120 feet square Daw Shan Lake in Nyaungngokto Village and 65 feet square Daw Win Kyi

Lake are being dredged.

A drain was dredged at Rakhine Creek Sluice Gate for prevention against flood to store fresh water for irrigating summer paddy.

Officials inspected dredging of drains in Thanbanchaung, Pyawbwegyi, Yechanugwa, Thabyegon and Nyaungngokto villages.

Myanma Alin



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 anti-trafficking in persons.

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

TRAINING CONCLUDES:
At concluding of training courses conducted by Human Resources Development Committee under Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, President of the federation U Win Aung presents prizes to outstanding trainees.

MNA



World Bank chief says eurozone needs funding for reforms



World Bank President Robert Zoellick attends a forum sponsored by the Economic Club of Washington, DC, in Washington, capital of the United States, on 16 May, 2012. World Bank President Robert Zoellick said Wednesday if Greece leaves the eurozone, it would have "ripple effects" comparable to the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008.—XINHUA

WASHINGTON, 17 May—World Bank President Robert Zoellick said on Wednesday if Greece leaves the eurozone, it would have "ripple effects" comparable to the collapse of

Lehman Brothers in 2008.

The debt-ridden European country faces political economy questions, not simply economic issue, Zoellick said in a forum

sponsored by the Economic Club of Washington, DC.

The World Bank chief, however, contended the core question for Europe will not be Greece, but Spain and Italy.

The Spanish and Italian governments are undertaking some "very difficult" fiscal reforms and structural reforms, which are key to future growth, the outgoing World Bank president told the audience.

"The danger for Greece is that if Greece does leave, frankly there has to be a lot of care taken to how that's done," Zoellick cautioned, adding that it makes him think of the fall of Lehman Brothers.

"Where the danger comes in is when events come, they start to affect confidence and you get illiquidity moments," said Zoellick, who also believed the key issue the European

countries have to come to terms with is "if you have medium-term reform, you need some sort of medium term insurance for investors."

Zoellick said he doesn't favor eurobonds all the time because it may loose fiscal disciplines on the states, but it can be used for a limited time.

He also mentioned using the European Stability Mechanism fund to stabilize European economy, which he said, is more likely to happen.

Greece's future in the eurozone was in doubt after political parties failed to reach an agreement on a governing coalition.

The country's political turmoil fueled fears among investors and caused large-scale deposit outflows from Greek banks since Monday.

Xinhua

S Korea's jobless rate falls to 3.5 pct in April

SEOUL, 17 May—South Korea's jobless rate fell to 3.5 percent last month from a year earlier as job creation kept its solid growth trend in the service industry, a government report showed on Wednesday.

The unemployment rate stood at 3.5 percent in April, down 0.2 percentage point from the same month of last year, according to Statistics Korea. From a month before, the rate was down 0.2 percentage point.

The jobless rate fell last month due mainly to persistent growth of monthly job creation in the service sector, but the figure declined at a relatively slow pace as later-than-planned civil service exam increased the number of people who prepares for job-finding.

The country's unemployment rate gauges the percent of people unemployed who actively sought jobs over the past four weeks to the economically active population, or the sum of people employed and those unemployed.

The number of people unemployed, who failed to land work despite job-hunting efforts, reached 895,000 last month, down 41,000 from a year earlier.

The jobless rate among those aged between 15 and 29 came in at 8.5 percent in April, down 0.2 percentage point from a year before. The rate was up 0.2 percentage point from the previous month. The total number of people employed grew 455,000 on-year to reach 24.76 million in April, the seventh straight month of creating over 400,000 jobs.

Xinhua

Murder of Honduran reporter blamed on drug gangs

TEGUCIGALPA, 17 May—A prominent Honduran radio journalist was killed by drug gangs in retaliation for a government crackdown on cartels, the country's security minister said on Wednesday.

Alfredo Villatoro, a well-known media personality, was found shot in the head on Tuesday a week after being kidnapped, the latest attack on the media in the violent Central American nation.

The attack on Villatoro comes as police have stepped up arrests of traffickers and prosecutors have pushed for extraditions "(Drug gangs) are trying to frighten Honduran society," said Security Minister Pompeyo Bonilla in a statement to a local television station.

Honduras has the world's highest murder rate - more than 80 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants last year - as the isthmus nation is increasingly used as a transit route for cocaine moving from South America to the United States.

Villatoro was a director of HRN radio, one of the oldest broadcast stations in the country. He is the second reporter killed this month after journalist and gay-rights activist Erick Martinez was murdered last week.

Four other broadcast journalists were murdered last year, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Last month, gunmen fired at the home and car of two television reporters, though no one was killed.

"We believe this is a

message from organized crime. The government must take responsibility and stop this killing spree," Carlos Ortiz, president of the



A journalist reads a local paper with a photograph of fellow journalist Alfredo Villatoro outside a funeral home where a wake for Villatoro was taking place in Tegucigalpa on 16 May, 2012.—REUTERS

Honduran Press Association said.

Mexican drug cartels have become more active in Central America in recent years and are blamed for much of the violence.

Lawmakers last year approved legislation that allows the extradition of suspected criminals wanted abroad, particularly in the United States.

Reuters

New Zealand exploring joint Antarctic research with ROK

WELLINGTON, 17 May—Antarctic scientists from New Zealand and the Republic of Korea (ROK) are to investigating areas of possible joint research, New Zealand's leading Antarctic research institute announced on Wednesday.

The collaboration comes as the ROK steps up investment in Antarctic research with plans for a 69 million-US-dollar station being built over the next two years at Terra Nova Bay, according to the University of Canterbury's Gateway Antarctica. The Jang Bogo Antarctic Research Station would benefit New Zealand's research in the area, Gateway Antarctica director Professor Bryan Storey said in a statement.

The New Zealand government was funding the three-year collaboration study with 174,000 NZ dollars (133,528 US dollars), said Storey, the focal point coordinator for Antarctic

Research Joint with Korea.

"The funding is to organize Korean researchers to come to New Zealand for workshops and vice versa, to discuss common interests and develop joint research programmes," Storey said in a statement.

The ROK had increased its Antarctic expenditure from 10 million US dollars to 60 million US dollars over the past five years, and was aiming to become a "very significant" Antarctic research nation, he said. "They are not only building a new station using advanced renewable energy technology, in addition to the one they have had since 1988, but they have also built a new ice-breaker ship worth 1 billion US dollars," Storey says. The ROK wanted a partner country with a long background of Antarctic research that knew the area and what issues could arise—and New Zealand had a lot of experience.—Xinhua

Two US Navy ships collide off Southern California coast

LOS ANGELES, 17 May—US Navy confirmed an amphibious assault ship collided with a Navy oiler Wednesday about 193 kilometers off the Southern California coast as the former was on its way to San Diego in the US State of California.

No one was hurt and no fuel was spilled, the Navy was quoted by local media as saying.

The USS Essex, the amphibious assault ship, collided with the USNS Yukon around 9:20am local time (1620GMT), and both vessels were damaged, the Navy said.

The USS Essex was based in San Diego before it was sent to Japan. According to the Navy's website, the ship is returning to San Diego Thursday after completing 12 years as the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed amphibious assault ship in Sasebo, Japan.—Xinhua



This image provided by the US Navy shows the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Yukon underway in the Pacific Ocean. The USNS Yukon and an amphibious assault ship USS Essex collided in the Pacific Ocean on 16 May, 2012, but there were no injuries and no fuel spills, the 3rd Fleet said.

INTERNET



A group of competitors load rice seedlings into a transplanter during a rice planting contest in Quanjiao County, east China's Anhui Province, on 16 May, 2012. The contest was held as an effort to promote the planting technologies of rice transplanter and improve the agricultural mechanization level.—XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DELPHINUS VOY NO (317)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELPHINUS VOY NO (317) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-5-2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING
AGENCY PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (075)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (075) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-5-2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Air Asia to launch Beijing-Kuala Lumpur route

BEIJING, 17 May — Air Asia, a low-cost airline, announced on Wednesday it will launch direct flight from Beijing to Kuala Lumpur starting from 22 June.

The company said four direct flights will take place every week between 22 June to 5 Aug, adding that flights will be scheduled on a daily basis starting from 6 Aug.

Since entering the Chinese market in 2005, Air Asia now flies to 10 Chinese cities, including Tianjin, Hangzhou, Chengdu and Guilin.

China is one of Air Asia's core markets and its entrance into the Beijing market is a milestone in the company's development, said Azran Osman Rani, CEO of AirAsia X, a long-haul budget airline and Air Asia franchise based in Malaysia.—Xinhua

Upcoming EU summit to focus on economic growth: Barroso

BRUSSELS, 17 May — The June European Council will focus on growth initiative, said European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso on Wednesday.

The European Commission would push for progress on proposals that had been put forward, Barroso said during a weekly

meeting of the Commission.

"So it is time to agree on these proposals," said Barroso.

He urged Member States to swiftly give the Commission a mandate to start negotiations on tax evasion and tax fraud, and expressed regret for two Member States' veto during ECOFIN meeting on

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV OEL BLESSING VOY NO (160)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL BLESSING VOY NO (160) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-5-2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL LOGISTICS
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (179)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (179) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-5-2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Shaven-headed young boys play near a lion model at the Everland amusement park in Yongin, west of Seoul, South Korea, on 14 May, 2012. They are among the nine children who entered a temple to have an experience of monk's life to celebrate upcoming birthday of Buddha.
INTERNET



A man takes the footprints of French sprinter Christophe Lemaitre in Oyonnax, during the inauguration of a track and field stadium bearing his name.—INTERNET

Germany pledges cash aid for Afghanistan after troops pullout

BERLIN, 17 May — Germany has promised 150 million euros (190 million US dollars) worth of cash aid to Afghanistan a year after international peacekeeping forces pullout on schedule in 2014 as part of an agreement signed by both countries on Wednesday.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said the aid to Afghanistan was a reflection of Germany's long-term commitment to the country.

"Afghanistan's fate is close to our heart," Merkel said, adding the pledge of

long-term aid marked a "milestone" in the two countries' relations.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said the funds would be used in training its security forces and build Afghanistan into a better and stronger country. Germany has some 4,900 soldiers engaged in peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan, making it the third largest contributor to the 130,000-strong NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, after the United States and Britain.

Xinhua

Teacher honoured after saving children from bus

BEIJING, 17 May — A middle school teacher in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province who was injured while saving students from getting hit by a bus has been honoured as a national "role model woman," the All-China Women's Federation announced on Wednesday.

Zhang Lili has regained consciousness but remains in life-threatening condition, doctors from the hospital she was transferred to said on Tuesday.

Zhang, a 29-year-old teacher at the No 19 Middle School in the city of Jiamusi, was crossing the road just outside the school's gate on 8 May when a school bus suddenly veered toward several students.

Zhang pushed two students out of the way but was hit by the bus herself.

Her legs were crushed and have since been amputated.

Xinhua

China's tourism investment hit 206 b yuan in 2011

BEIJING, 17 May — Investment in China's tourism industry hit 206.4 billion yuan (32.8 billion US dollars) last year, according to data from the National Tourism Administration (NTA) issued on Wednesday.

Private investment accounted for 39 percent of the total, said Wu Wenxue, a senior NTA official.

Investment by the government and state-owned enterprises accounted for 25 and 13 percent of the total, respectively, Wu said at a Press briefing.

Meanwhile, 23 percent of the total came from bank loans, Wu said.

Scenic areas, vacation resorts and the renovation of tourist cities took 66 percent of the investment, while investment in restaurants and hotels accounted for 18 percent, data showed. Wu said China's economically developed eastern region was the top spot for tourism investment, consuming more than half of the total investment last year.

As of the end of 2011, accumulative investment in tourism projects nationwide totaled 2.67 trillion yuan, the data showed.—Xinhua



A great tit leaves its nest box in a garden in Arnsberg, western Germany. During the breeding season, the male bird feeds the female, and after the nestlings hatch from the eggs, both parents care for their offspring.—INTERNET

Tuesday to a mandate for EU to negotiate with third parties.

"There is no easy road to growth, but an intensification of reforms at both the national and the European levels can help," Barroso said.

He also urged Greek people to take a wise decision in upcoming election, and pledged at the same time EU would respect Greek people's decision.

"It will now be for the Greek people to take a fully informed decision on the alternatives, having in mind that this will be indeed an historic election," said Barroso.

Xinhua

Man asked to be shot

Police in New York State said they arrested a man accused of agreeing to do a favour for a friend and shoot him in the leg.

State Police said Shawn Mossow, 25, of Norfolk allegedly shot a 24-year-old friend in the leg with a .22-caliber rifle Sunday in Stockholm because the other man was curious about what it would feel like and asked him to take the shot, the Potsdam, NY, publication *North County This Week* reported.

The victim was treated for a non-life-threatening gunshot wound and is expected to fully recover.

Mossow was charged with felony first-degree reckless endangerment and jailed in lieu of \$10,000 cash bail.

Ming vase turned into lamp sells for \$881K

A Ming dynasty vase that experts said would have been worth \$6.4 million intact sold for \$881,320 in Britain because its former owner converted it into a lamp.

Duke's auction house in Dorchester, England, said an elderly man brought the lamp in for auction and had no idea that it was a 15th century vase from the reign of Emperor Xuande, the British financial Website *This is Money* reported. "It is tempting to speculate how many millions the vase would have fetched if it had not been damaged when it was converted to a table lamp," said Guy Schwinge of Duke's auction house. "Chinese porcelain from the reign of Xuande bearing the imperial marks of the Emperor are extremely rare and highly prized by a new breed of collectors from mainland China," he said.



A Miami eBay user is selling a pair of bloomer-style undergarments allegedly once belonging to Queen Elizabeth II.

Taxi cab thieves left flower trail

Boston police said they arrested two men accused of hijacking a taxi cab and leaving a trail of flower petals during a foot chase.

Police said Brian Cunneen, 21, of Lowell, and Shawn Hickey, 40, of Boston, took a ride in a taxi cab and Hickey allegedly pulled a realistic-looking pellet handgun on the driver when two of his credit cards were declined, the *Boston Herald* reported.

The driver fled when the men demanded his money and they gave chase, shooting him twice in the chest with the pellet gun, police said.

Investigators said Hickey briefly stole

the cab and left Cunneen behind, but was forced to abandon the vehicle when he crashed it into two cars and the two men fled together on foot.

Police said a trail of flower petals From Cunneen's "orange, yellow and red floral arrangement" led them to a knife the men abandoned while fleeing and officers were able to catch up to the suspects.

Both men were charged with armed carjacking and armed robbery. Hickey was also charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and leaving the scene of an accident. The men were ordered held without bail.

Bloomers in auction alleged to be queen's

A Miami eBay user is selling a pair of bloomer-style undergarments allegedly once belonging to Queen Elizabeth II.

The auction alleges the undergarments, which bear an embroidered crown and the letter "E," were left on an airplane when Elizabeth visited Chile in 1968 and ended up in the collection of

Hungarian-born sculptor Baron Joseph "Sepy" de Bicske Dobronyi, who died in 2010, the British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

The description in the auction, which was purportedly posted by Dobronyi's estate, says Buckingham Palace and the manufacturer of the garment

have refused to confirm or deny the authenticity of the item.

"In either case this is an excellent example of a vintage undergarment of that era and very collectible," the description says.

The auction, which ends on 22 May, had a high bid of \$5,300 as of Monday afternoon.

News Album

Thin Elizabeth Banks won't mention her weight

LOS ANGELES, 17 May—Actress Elizabeth Banks says she is so thin that she would not like to talk about her weight.

"It's not good to put in a magazine what I weigh because it's too little. People freak out when they hear what I weigh," showbizspy.com quoted Banks as saying.

"They think, 'Oh, you're too skinny.' But I ate a cupcake last night — and I eat broccoli. I work out with a trainer; she kicks my a**," she said.

Banks featured in "Spider-Man" series as Betty Brant.—*Internet*

Actress Elizabeth Banks



Julianne Moore to play mom in 'Carrie'

LOS ANGELES, 17 May—Actress Julianne Moore has officially been signed to play a crazy mother in an upcoming remake of the 1976 horror classic "Carrie".

"Twin Peaks" actress Piper Laurie played the mum in the acclaimed original. Actress Chloe Grace Moretz will play the lead role, which was originally portrayed by Sissy Spacek, reports *dailystar.co.uk*. The film was originally adapted from Stephen King's chilling book of the same name. The remake is to be directed by Kimberly Peirce and is set for March 2013 release.—*Internet*

Actress Julianne Moore



Actor Tom Cruise

Justin Bieber's perfume 'Someday' breaks record

NEW YORK, 17 May—Justin Bieber's perfume "Someday" has broken records earning 3 million dollar in just three weeks resulting in his big win at FiFi Awards.

The FiFi Awards are sponsored by the fragrance foundation and is held annually since 1973.

The awards which are

dubbed the "Oscars" of the perfume world will be conferred to in New York on 21 May with Glee star Jane Lynch hosting.

Other scents in the competition for a going include Prada Candy and Tom Ford Violet Blonde but Justin Bieber's debut women's perfume Someday broke records, reports the *New York daily*.

The Board of Directors this year unanimously agreed that the singer should receive the "Elizabeth Taylor Fragrance Celebrity of the Year Award," which honors a celebrity who has embraced and promoted the world of fragrance.

Ford's Jasmin Rouge fragrance has also been nominated in both the nouveau niche men and the nouveau niche women categories.

The Scents running for the category of luxe men prize include Armani Code Sport, Gucci Guilty Pour Homme, John Varvatos USA, Yves Saint Laurent's L'Homme Libre and Un Jardin Sur Le



Justin Bieber

Toit by Hermès.—*Internet*

Theron gets nervous on red carpet

LONDON, 17 May—Actress Charlize Theron admits she is moved when fans come out to greet her at premieres, but says she still gets unnerved at glitzy red carpet events despite a 17-year-old career as a Hollywood star.

"Red carpets are still the same so far as anxiety and

nerves. I don't think that ever goes away because it's a lot of attention," Theron said at the British premiere of "Snow White and the Huntsman" here.

"But it's so moving that everyone comes out to support us. That always, always amazes me. It's flattering. It's sweet and I try not to think about it. Of course it's intimidating," female-first.co.uk quoted Theron as saying.

The 36-year-old was joined on the green carpet event by the film's cast including Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Ray Winstone.—*Internet*



Actress Charlize Theron

Romantic Cruise still crazy about Holmes

LOS ANGELES, 17 May—Actor Tom Cruise, who married Katie Holmes in 2006, says he is incredibly happy with their special relationship and is still mesmerised by everything she does.

The 49-year-old says he felt an instant attraction to Holmes the moment he met her and just laying eyes on her brings a smile to his face every day.

"She is an extraordinary person, and if you spent five minutes with her, you'd see it. Everything she does, she does with this beautiful creativity. She's funny and charming, and when she walks into the

room, I just feel better," contactmusic.com quoted Cruise as saying.

The actor says he keeps their chemistry alive by organizing intimate meals to give the couple time to bond.

"I am a romantic. I like doing things like creating romantic dinners, and she enjoys that. I don't know what to say — I'm just happy, and I have been since the moment I met her. What we have is very special," he said.

The couple began dating 2005 welcomed daughter Suri April 2006 and wed later that year.

Internet

Billboard Awards to honour Whitney Houston

LAS VEGAS, 17 May—Jordin Sparks and John Legend are to perform a tribute to late pop icon Whitney Houston at Sunday's



Pop icon Whitney Houston

Billboard Music Awards show in Las Vegas, ABC said on Tuesday.

Houston is to be posthumously honoured with the 2012 Billboard Millennium Award at the event, which her daughter Bobbi Kristina and sister-in-law Pat are expected to attend.

Julie Bowen and Ty Burrell are to serve as hosts of the ceremony at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Houston drowned in a hotel bathtub 11 Feb in Beverly Hills, Calif, after using cocaine. She was 48.

Internet

Bayern Munich keen to be part of 'golden generation'

MUNICH, 17 May—Bayern Munich captain Philipp Lahm says his side must beat Chelsea in Saturday's Champions League final if they want to be considered part of the club's "golden generation."

Bayern host Chelsea at Munich's Allianz Arena with the Bavarian giants bidding to lift the trophy for the first time since 2001, having reached two of the last three finals.

Lahm played in the Bayern team that lost 2-0 at the hands of Jose Mourinho's Inter Milan in the 2010 final in Madrid.

Current club president Uli Hoeness and chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, meanwhile, were part of the Bayern team that won consecutive titles in 1974, 1975 and 1976.—Internet



Bayern Munich's Philipp Lahm, seen here in action during their UEFA Champions League second leg semi-final match against Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, on 25 April. Lahm says his side must beat Chelsea in Saturday's final if they want to be considered part of the club's "golden generation."

INTERNET

Maradona in contention for UAE manager's job



Former Argentina's coach Diego Maradona stands on the sidelines during their World Cup 2010 qualifying match against Paraguay, on 9 Sept. 2009.

REUTERS

ABU DHABI, 17 May—Diego Maradona could be set for a return to the international arena with the Argentine being considered

for the vacant United Arab Emirates head coaching job.

The new president of the UAE Football Association Yousuf Al Serkal said on Wednesday that Maradona was among the leading candidates for the post.

"As Maradona is within the family of UAE football, we can't neglect or overlook such a name," Al Serkal said. "We will have to consider him."

Maradona, who won the World Cup as a player in 1986 and coached Argentina to the quarter-finals of the 2010 edition in South Africa, is now working at the Al Wasl club in Dubai.

The UAE has been without a head coach since Srecko Katanec was sacked last year following successive defeats in their opening 2014 World Cup qualifying matches.

Reuters

Tevez insists he won't apologise to Fergie

MANCHESTER, 17 May—Striker Carlos Tevez insisted Wednesday he would not apologise to Sir Alex Ferguson after waving a mocked-up tombstone of the Manchester United boss during Manchester City's Premier League title celebrations.

"It seems that Ferguson is the president of England. Because each time that he speaks badly of a player or talks nonsense about me no-one comes out to say that he has to apologise.

"When you make a joke, you have to apologise. But I'm not apologising," said Tevez on returning to Buenos Aires after helping City to their first title in 44 years.

The 28-year-old Argentina striker held up a banner designed to look like a gravestone and bearing the words 'RIP Fergie' as City celebrated their title triumph over Manchester United during an open-top bus parade.

Manchester City later released a statement apologising to Ferguson and criticised Tevez while the player—who it is believed took the banner from a fan—also said he "didn't mean any disrespect".

Argentina's Pablo Zabaleta scored City's opening goal in their 3-2 defeat of QPR with compatriot Sergio Aguero netting the winner.

"It was an honour to be with Pablo and 'Kun' (Aguero) and to walk away champions, more so with the problem that we have with England," added Tevez, concerning the dispute between the two countries over the Falkland Islands.

Tevez revealed that he had just been about to go to the locker room when Edin Dzeko got the equaliser two minutes into extra time, explaining: "I stayed and then came Kun's goal and the madness broke out".

Internet

Chinese club Guangzhou appoint Italian coach Lippi

GUANGZHOU, 17 May—World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi was unveiled as the new coach of Chinese champions Guangzhou Evergrande on Thursday, in the latest sign of the Super League's growing financial clout.

The 64-year-old, who boasts excellent credentials after lifting the Champions League with Juventus and guiding his native Italy to World Cup glory in 2006, is the highest-profile coach to

make the lucrative move to China.

The deal also confirms the soaring ambitions of Guangzhou, who last year made Argentina's Dario Conca one of the world's richest players when they snapped him up and then went on to take the Super League title. "In accordance with the strategic needs of the club... the following decision was made: to hire Mr Marcello Lippi as the head coach of Guangzhou Evergrande," the



Japan midfielder Hiroshi Kiyotake (pictured in 2011), a member of the country's under-23 squad for the London Olympics, will join German side Nuremberg on 1 July, his J-League club Cerezo Osaka said Thursday.

INTERNET

South Korea drop Arsenal striker Park Chu-Young

SEOUL, 17 May—South Korea on Thursday dropped Arsenal striker Park Chu-Young for next month's World Cup qualification games, amid controversy over his move to delay military service.

Park was not named in the squad for a friendly against Spain in Switzerland on 30 May or for the qualification games for the 2014 Brazil World Cup—away to Qatar on 8 June and home to Lebanon on 12 June.

The 26-year-old has come under fire for delaying his compulsory military service by obtaining a 10-year residency visa for Monaco last year, when he played for AS Monaco.

South Korean football



South Korea on Thursday dropped Arsenal striker Park Chu-Young (pictured in 2011) for next month's World Cup qualification games, amid controversy over his move to delay military service.

INTERNET

authorities had urged him to explain his position publicly on the controversy before the squad was announced on Thursday.

Internet

International Sports



Manchester City's Argentinian forward Carlos Tevez (C, black hat) sits with his teammates on an open topped bus as they celebrate becoming English Premier League champions in a parade in Manchester on 14 May.

INTERNET



World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi (pictured in 2010) was unveiled as the new coach of Chinese champions Guangzhou Evergrande on Thursday, in the latest sign of the Super League's growing financial clout.—INTERNET club in China's southern industrial city said in a statement.—Internet

Japan's Kiyotake to join Nuremberg

OSAKA, 17 May—Japan midfielder Hiroshi Kiyotake, a member of the country's under-23 squad for the London Olympics, will join German side Nuremberg on 1 July, his J-League club Cerezo Osaka said Thursday.

The 22-year-old has scored 17 goals in 92 J-League matches. He joined Oita Trinita in 2008, moving to Cerezo Osaka in 2010.

His transfer fee to the Bundesliga side is estimated at about one million euros (\$1.3 million) and he has signed a three-year contract.

Kiyotake has played in five games without scoring a goal for Japan's senior side. He is also a member of the Olympic squad seeking the country's first football medal since they won bronze at the 1968 Mexico City Games.

Japanese players in Germany's professional leagues include Borussia Dortmund star Shinji Kagawa, who appears set to move to England, Stuttgart striker Shinji Okazaki and Wolfsburg midfielder Makoto Hasebe.—Internet

Barton accepts one violence charge, denies another

LONDON, 17 May—Joey Barton has accepted an FA charge against him for violent conduct against Manchester City's Sergio Aguero in Sunday's clash which clinched the Premier League title for City.

However, the Queens Park Rangers midfielder has denied a second charge of alleged violent conduct against City's Vincent Kompany, the English FA said in a statement.



Queens Park Rangers' English midfielder Joey Barton (C) clashes with Manchester City's captain Vincent Kompany (L) after being sent off by the referee on 13 May.

INTERNET

Barton was sent off for elbowing Carlos Tevez and then kicked Sergio Aguero and appeared to try to headbutt Kompany before being escorted off the pitch. He has requested a personal hearing, the date of which has yet to be set.—Reuters

Azarenka suffers injury blow, Federer advances

ROME, 17 May—World number one Victoria Azarenka suffered a blow to her French Open preparations when she was forced to pull out of the Italian Open with a right shoulder injury on Wednesday, but an aching Roger Federer gingerly advanced to the third round.

Azarenka had shown no sign of discomfort when she walloped Israel's Shahar Peer 6-1, 6-2 in the second round but the WTA announced her withdrawal shortly after the victory to the surprise of everyone in the Foro Italico.



Roger Federer serves to Carlos Berlocq during their match at the Rome Masters, on 16 May, 2012.

INTERNET

With just 10 days until the start of the French Open, the Belarusian will hope for a quick recovery ahead of her bid for a second straight grand slam title.

In-form Federer, carrying a few aches and pains after winning the Madrid Masters on Sunday, saw off Carlos Berlocq of Argentina 6-3, 6-4.

The Swiss only decided to play after his morning practice session.

Reuters

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(18-5-12 09:30 am ~
19-5-12 09:30 am) MST

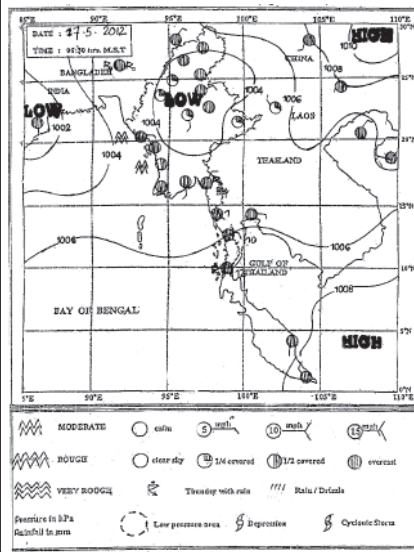
- * News
- * National Expo & Car Show
- * Challenges to Media in a New Environment
- * News
- * Tapestry: A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship
- * News
- * Myanmar Video Impact "Gandary Rosy"
- * News
- * Where Stars Blossom Excellent
- * News
- * Volunteers Rural Field Trips
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * IWT....Getting Ready for the People and the Country (Part-2)
- * News
- * The most prominent resort and residence
- * Myanmar Movie "Love Be Win"

MYANMAR TV

(18-5-2012)(Friday)

- 7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 8:00 am
2. Health Programme
- 8:10 am
3. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
- 4:20 pm
4. Traditional Game
- 4:30 pm
5. Teleplay (Health)
- 4:45 pm
6. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Geography)
- 5:10 pm
7. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 5:15 pm
8. Songs Of Yester Years
- 5:25 pm
9. Myanmar language
- 5:40 pm
10. Sports Highlight
- 6:20 pm
11. Internet Garden
- 8:00 pm
12. News
13. TV Drama Series
14. Song Lover

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 18th May, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	38/106	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
2	Kayah	34/93	21/70	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
3	Kayah	35/95	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
4	Chin	24/75	12/54	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
5	Upper Sgaw	40/104	23/73	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
6	Lower Sgaw	41/106	27/81	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
7	Tanintharyi	31/88	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
8	Bago	36/97	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
9	Magway	43/109	28/82	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
10	Mandalay	41/106	27/81	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
11	Mon	32/90	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
12	Yangon	36/97	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
13	Rakhine	34/93	25/77	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
14	Southern Shan	28/82	18/64	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
15	Northern Shan	36/97	18/68	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
16	Eastern Shan	36/97	21/70	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
17	Ayeyarwady	37/99	27/81	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
18	Neighboring Nya Pyi Taw	39/102	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighboring Yangon	36/97	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
20	Neighboring Mandalay	41/106	27/81	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Magway Region and Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Tanintharyi Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Bago region and Mon State, scattered in Mandalay and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Mon State. Day temperatures were (37°C) to (67°C) above May average temperatures in Upper Sgaw and Magway Regions, (37°C) to (47°C) above May average temperatures in Lower Sgaw, Bago and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States and about May average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Maithe (45°C), Chank (44°C) and Mayaw (42°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thuan (4.41) inches, Maubin (2.60) inches, Madon (2.56) inches, Kyaukse (2.48) inches and Pung (2.48) inches.

Summary of observations at 09:30 to MST on today

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea, East Central Bay and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely anytime Andam, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) to (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of thundery activities in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Medical ward for Sangha under construction in Shwegyin

SHWEGYIN, 17 May—Participation of volunteers in construction of self-reliant Sangha ward was organized at Shwegyin People's Hospital (100-bed) in Shwegyin of Bago District in Bago Region on 12 May morning.

The local people participated in construction works. The medical ward for Sangha will be 66x29x14 feet one-storey structure which cost K 25 million.

Myanma Alin



A model presents a vehicle during the 7th China (Shenyang) Auto Fair Expo in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 17 May, 2012. The five-day-long expo opened here on Thursday, attracting 105 auto companies.

XINHUA



King Kenny dethroned as Liverpool sack Dalglish

LIVERPOOL, 17 May—Liverpool legend Kenny Dalglish was sacked as manager of the club on Wednesday in a dramatic move by the club's owners following a disappointing Premier League campaign.

The 61-year-old Scot, who had returned for a second stint as manager at Anfield in January last year, paid the price for a dismal season which saw Liverpool finish 37 points behind champions Manchester City.

The Merseyside club's American owners the Fenway Sports Group (FSG) had given Dalglish more than £100 million (159 million dollars) to spend in the transfer market since he took over from the sacked Roy Hodgson in 2011.

But expensive signings such as Andy Carroll, Stewart Downing, Jordan Henderson

and Charlie Adam have largely flopped, with Liverpool's eighth place finish their worst season-ending position for nearly two decades.

"Fenway Sports Group and Liverpool Football Club announce that Kenny Dalglish is to leave his post today as manager after having his contract terminated," a joint statement said. "After a careful and deliberative review of the season the club came to the decision that a change was appropriate."

"It is not a decision that was reached lightly or hastily. The search for a new manager will begin immediately."

Dalglish said in a statement he was "honoured and privileged" to have been given the opportunity to manage the club for a second

time.

"I greatly appreciate the work that Steve (Clarke), Kevin (Keen), the players and all of the staff put in during my time and feel proud that we delivered the club's first trophy in six years, winning the (League) Cup, and came close to a second trophy in the FA Cup final," he said.

Internet



Kenny Dalglish, pictured in April 2012, was sacked as Liverpool manager on Wednesday, the English Premier League club confirmed.—INTERNET

Limbless Frenchman swims from PNG to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 May—A Frenchman who lost his limbs in an electrical accident swam from Papua New Guinea to Indonesia in strong winds and currents Thursday, finishing the first stretch in a mission to swim between five continents.

Philippe Croizon, 43, who swam the English Channel in 2010, left Papua New Guinea's fishing village of Wutung in the early morning to begin what he has billed as the Oceania-Asia stretch of his challenge.

After swimming 20 kilometres (12 miles) over almost eight hours, he arrived at 1 pm local time (0400 GMT) in the village of Pasar Skow in Indonesia's Papua province, which shares a border with Papua New Guinea.

"It was very, very hard," Croizon told AFP trying to catch his breath on the grey and black beach lined with coconut trees in Pasar Skow.

"It took us an hour and a half more than we expected because we had to swim against

the currents," he said, adding the total time was seven hours, 35 minutes and 35 seconds.

More than 100 locals came to see the Frenchman, who swam with the French long-distance swimmer Arnaud Chassery and a man from Papua New Guinea named Zet Tampa, who said he wanted to join the swim to show solidarity. "We swam slowly because we did not have the chance to do a practice run," Croizon said.—Xinhua



French amputee and swimmer Philippe Croizon, pictured in 2010.—INTERNET

Mexican brothers given death penalty in Malaysia for drug trafficking

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 May—A Malaysian high court on Thursday sentenced three Mexican brothers and two others to death by hanging for drug trafficking.

Kuala Lumpur high court judge Mohd Zawawi Saleh convicted 33-year-old Jose Regino Gonzales Villarreal, 36-year-old Simon Gonzales Villarreal, 44-year-old Alfonso Gonzales Villarreal, a Singaporean painter and a

Malaysian crane operator for trafficking 29.46 kilograms of methamphetamine worth 44 million ringgit (14.15 million US dollars). Drug trafficking carries a mandatory death penalty by hanging under Malaysia's law.

The Mexicans were from Sinaloa state and have no prior criminal records. They were arrested in March four years ago at a drug manufacturing factory in Malaysia's southern

Johor state.

The judge dismissed the defence's arguments that they were hired as cleaners to clean the factory, saying stains of drug chemicals were found on their clothes.

The Villarreal brothers are the first Mexicans to be charged and convicted for drug trafficking.

Their attorney, Kitson Foong, said he will appeal the verdict.—Xinhua

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw receives UNDP Assistant Secretary General

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by UNDP Assistant Secretary General and Director of Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific Mr Ajay Chhibber at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw of Hluttaw Complex here at 10.15 am today.

Also present at the call were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, Amyotha Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman Col Maung Maung Htoo and officials of Hluttaw Office.

They cordially discussed implementation of practical development programmes in cooperation with the Hluttaw after the visit of the UN Secretary-General, assistance to be rendered by UN and UNDP for speeding up Myanmar development, carrying out of more development programmes as the restrictions on Myanmar are being lifted, parliamentary assistance, promotion of competency of Hluttaw representatives, providing of publications for the Hluttaw library, more measures for environmental conservation regarding



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives UNDP Assistant Secretary General and Director of Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific Mr Ajay Chhibber at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw of Hluttaw Complex.—MNA

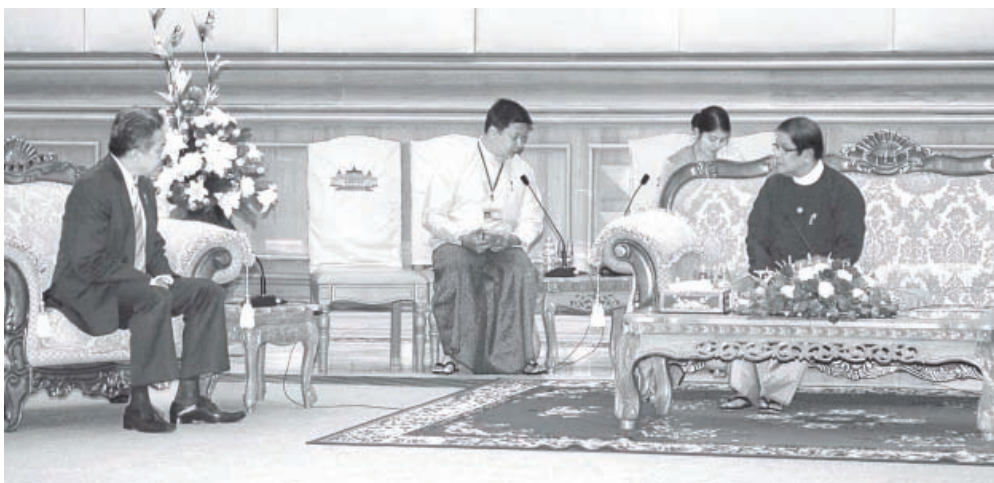
Myanmar's climatic changes, promotion of living standard the citizens and the ecological conservation in addition to development of

GDP alone, measures for systematically shaping economy and economic plans and

providing of technical aids as Myanmar has been blessed with natural resources.

MNA

Thai Ambassador calls on Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker



Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein receiving Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suwanajata.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May— Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suwanajata paid a call on Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning.

Present at the call together with the deputy speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw were chairpersons and secretaries of Amyotha Hluttaw committees.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to fostering friendly ties between the two parliaments and two nations.—MNA

Winners awarded in MTF President Cup Junior Tennis Tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation, final matches of the President Cup Junior Tennis Tournament 2012 were held at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township yesterday.

After the final matches, officials presented prizes and cash awards to winners in the U-10 boys' singles event, U-12 boys' and girls' singles events, U-14 men's and women's singles events and U-16 men's singles event.

President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Aung Maw Thein awarded medals and cash awards to first prize winner Zaw Hsan Oo, second prize winner Win Naing Oo and joint third prize winners Aung Myo Thant and Hein Hla Htoo under-18 men's singles event.—MNA

Second Workshop for Study on Household Livelihoods held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—The Second Workshop for Study on Household Livelihoods 2009-2010 of Chin State was held at the city hall in Haka on 10 May morning.

Chin State Minister for Finance and Revenue U Nan Za Mon gave an opening address.

Officials of IHLCA Technological Unit of the United Nations Development Program participated in discussions and replied to queries raised by those present.

MNA

No pressure on team GB to select Beckham, says Coe

REUTERS, 17 May— David Beckham will have to earn his place in Britain's Olympic football squad on skill and merit like any other player and can expect no special favours, London 2012 organisers said on Thursday.

Speaking before the 37-year-old former England captain teamed up with a London delegation for the formal handing over of the Olympic flame, LOCOG chairman Seb Coe said there would be no attempt to twist the arm of Team GB manager Stuart Pearce.

"We have put absolutely no pressure on Stuart Pearce at all," he told

reporters, a day after England manager Roy Hodgson named his provisional squad for the European championships in Poland and Ukraine next month.

"Stuart has to pick the

team that he thinks will lift that (Olympic) trophy. I wouldn't expect any coach to be operating on any other basis, whether its wrestling or Olympic football," added Coe.—Internet

